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**ALARMING INCREASE IN FOOD BANKS**  
GEM SPECIAL REPORT - PAGES 22-23

## AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! Daniel conquers Kilimanjaro for River Africa cause

A TIRELESS campaigner for mother and baby hospitals in Zimbabwe has raised over £6,000 by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Daniel Nadzo, well known in Barry following his fundraising in the town, pledged last year to conquer the legendary peak – the highest freestanding mountain in the world – to help the charity River Africa.

Daniel, who is originally from Zimbabwe, said that during the trek his party were walking up to seven hours a day and some suffered a lack of breath and sickness as they got higher and higher.

He was determined to reach the peak, which stands at 19,341 ft, no matter what.

"I kept motivated by reminding myself of the



by TIM CHAPMAN

ABOVE: Made it! Daniel (centre) at Barafu camp, having conquered Mount Kilimanjaro.

reasons why I had embarked upon the journey," he said. "I thought of the sick wife in Zimbabwe whose husband has to take her to the rural clinic in a wheelbarrow

on a four-hour walk. "I thought of the suffering infants and expectant mothers who will be supported by River Africa, and gritted my teeth and kept moving."

In total, Daniel raised £6,105. To read his full story, please turn to page 15.

If you would like to support him go to: www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Nadzo

## The Queen to visit Atlantic College

THE Queen will visit Atlantic College in the Vale of Glamorgan on Wednesday, April 30, it has been announced by Buckingham Palace.

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

The visit will be an opportunity for the Queen to meet staff and students, and view the facilities at the world-famous international college, which was founded in 1962. It is part of a two-day visit to Wales, taking in the Vale, Caerphilly county and Pembrokeshire, and the Queen will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Dr Peter Beck, the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, told The GEM: "The Queen is coming on a semi-private visit, and visiting the college which is at the far flung corner of my area."

"There was a request from the palace to visit for about an hour and be able to look at the various college facilities."

The college celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012, but the Queen was unable to visit it then because of her busy Diamond Jubilee schedule.

The Queen visited the college in 1965 and 1993. It was founded by the German educationalist Kurt Hahn, whose vision was to engage young people from all nations in finding peaceful means to bring together a world divided by political, racial and socio-economic barriers by learning from one another.

Since its opening, over 7,500 students from over 100 countries have benefited from the educational experience at the college.

## Police look for two Barry men

POLICE in Barry are appealing for information on the whereabouts of George Michael Norris and Jake O'Brien, both of whom are wanted in connection with a robbery which occurred shortly after 8.30pm on Tuesday, April 8, in the car park of the Civic Offices in Barry.

either of the men is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 1400119769.



Jake O'Brien



George Norris.

Norris, 29, is described as five feet six inches tall with brown hair and blue eyes. He is of medium build.

O'Brien, 26, is five feet seven inches tall with blonde curly hair and blue eyes. He is of proportionate build.

Both men come from Barry. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of

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## 'Sainsbury's will suck the heart out of the town'

**W**ITH reference to the article 'Sainsbury's to move on Llanmaes' (The GEM, April 10), the article states that 'elements of Planning Policy Wales require a store to be built as part of the town centre'.

Not only is the proposed site nowhere near the town centre, it is not even in the town! It is in the village of Llanmaes.

The article also states that Sainsbury's say their store will 'add to the town centre'.

Clearly people are not going to drive to Sainsbury's to shop and

then drive to Llantwit town centre for more shopping! Surely it can only suck the heart out of the town.

Sainsbury's says that "a significant majority" of Llantwit residents support the proposed store.

I would be very surprised if this was the case, and believe their consultations were heavily biased to get the result they wanted.

Do the people of Llantwit Major realise they are going to be living in a ghost town? If so, I would encourage them to fight this proposal by immediately emailing

LDP@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk with their objection, quoting reference ASN 88.  
**Laura McGreevy, Llanmaes.**

## 'Be careful what you wish for!'

**Y**OUR celebration of the history and current commercial renaissance of the town of Llantwit Major is both timely and apposite (The GEM, April 17).

Those tempted by the siren song of Sainsbury's plans for a megastore in nearby Llanmaes and the prospect of endless BOGOF deals on tins of novelty biscuits, should be very careful what they wish for.

The presence of a large retailer on the edge of Llantwit is likely to leech customers and cash from a town centre that is currently making a brave recovery from the recent recession. Privately-owned

businesses tend to rapidly recycle their profits within the local community: Sainsbury's profits go to city slickers in London.

Footfall in the centre of Llantwit will slump; the banks will close and we will be left with shuttered shops and just the odd discarded betting slip blowing in the wind. And all for what?

Two hundred mostly part-time jobs are promised – zero-hours contracts perhaps and no guarantee they will be filled by citizens of Llantwit Major. Fair exchange for a town centre that will end up looking like the middle of Corby, circa 1982?

The promised cheap food could work out very expensive!  
**Richard Simpson, Llanmaes.**

## 'Who could ask for more at 100?'

**I**WOULD like to take the opportunity of thanking my family and friends who helped to make my 100th birthday celebrations a day to remember.

Instead of gifts, I had a 'charity box' for Wales Air Ambulance and Help for Heroes, which raised the sum of £260.

My room looks like a florist with so many flowers. Who could ask for more?  
**Ivy Heveron, Rhooose.**

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# Readers' Letters

**Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk**

**IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## Darren Farm plan 'threat to historic Vale landscape'

**Y**OUR front page article in The GEM on April 3, clearly showed the huge amended expansion of the proposed Darren Farm LDP development site allocation (over double the original area).

This proposal would be an even greater intrusion of development into the open countryside, onto a productive farm on a greenfield site in the council-designated Upper Thaw Valley special landscape area and the setting of Llanblethian hill fort (CADW scheduled ancient monument).

The site amendments ASA 5 and ASA 11 not only take up the present dairy pasture of Darren Farm, but also extend to the east over the present farmhouse, cowsheds, milking parlour and other farm facilities, which would remove from the farming tenant all possibility of living or farming on the site.

The proposed relocated link road to take heavy goods traffic within 160m of 12th century Llanfrynach church would destroy its present peaceful tranquility.

This proposed expanded site development allocation (like the original), is in total conflict with the 2003 public inquiry Inspector's report recommending that this historic landscape is preserved and not developed; ratified by the Welsh Assembly.

Those readers wishing to comment on this proposed site expansion can do so before May 1 on the council comment form, obtainable on the alternative sites consultation page of the VOG website, or by letter.

**Chris Pearce, (Coordinator, Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents' Group) www.savedarrenfarm.co.uk.**

## Homes: 'Look to bigger picture'

**W**HAT I don't understand about the current draft LDP is the Vale Council's willingness to build a large development of houses in a special landscape area – for example, with the St Athan Road candidate site – which will have an irreversible detrimental impact on the landscape setting of Cowbridge...

Then, however, be so rigid in their reluctance to consider the redevelopment of The Second World War airbase at Llandow, which is desperately in need of new life.

Llandow Newydd has been put forward as an alternative site (not

by the council) and I strongly urge Vale residents to back this alternative site and complete the council's LDP alternative site representation form, which you can do online and only takes a few minutes.

To build Llandow Newydd would certainly require a long-term strategy and vision, but surely this is what this LDP process is all about?

If done properly, this scheme would provide new homes, a relief road for Llyswoerney, new primary school and even a train stop.

This option, to me, makes far more sense than adding developments onto existing towns and villages which would spoil the landscape of these areas – such as in Cowbridge – and put even more pressure on existing services, schools and

infrastructure.

Has the LDP team completed a traffic survey in Cowbridge at peak times? For example, the roads leading up to the traffic light junction at Eastgate and St Athan Road would certainly not be able to cope with a possible extra 200 cars as well as other vital services in Cowbridge.

Please can the Vale Council look at the bigger picture and listen to existing residents when we say that schools and infrastructure could not cope if extra housing developments are added.

Building in existing communities may be the simpler and cheaper option, but that doesn't make it the better one for the Vale as a whole. The Llandow Newydd scheme should be fully reconsidered.

**Neil Brewer, Llanblethian.**

## Picking up bill for fiscal powers

**I**N The GEM (April 10), Jane Hutt AM says the new fiscal powers under Labour will provide new prospects for the Vale as part of the reviving economy.

Ah, so even Welsh Labour agree that the Conservative fiscal policies are working and helping to create jobs in Wales!

These new fiscal powers will allow the Welsh Government to borrow yet more money.

Let's hope Labour will not squander it on yet more white elephants, unaudited projects and handouts to areas that seem happy to vote Labour in return for benefits rather than jobs.

Needless to say, we the taxpayers, will

eventually pick up the bill for these new fiscal powers, by way of yet more tax rises.

Jane also mentioned Labour success with unemployment.

The Genesis 2 Cymru Labour programme cost £36 million in public and EU funding before it was ended prematurely.

It was meant to get 20,000 people into work on minimum wage, 16-hour a week jobs. It ultimately got just over 800 into work.

Yes, Wales has many skilled workers; however, many of them cannot afford to accept the lower-paid Welsh jobs, so they commute to England where pay is up to 100 per cent more than in Wales.

**Gordon Wilkie, Llantwit Major (Conservative).**

## 'Darren Farm: back alternative'

**I**WONDER how many readers recognised the organised theme in last week's GEM letters as anti-Darren Farm objectors.

It included one from Cowbridge History Society that endeavoured to mislead by saying nobody is in support of the housing, when surprisingly only six months ago, the same person openly stated in a GEM letter that Cowbridge benefited and moved forward when the majority of housing previously took place.

Then another hoodwink was saying it can only increase traffic through the town while any lay person making even the most basic monitoring of traffic entering the town from Primrose Hill, will find most travelling through and up Llantwit Major Road.

Another letter provides the pretence that services are the norm at Llanfrynach Church, which is patently not true, as approximately two occur per year. This person wishes to deep freeze the church for perpetuity which I feel is sad, as this church would benefit from a congregation. A church is not a building, it is a place of Christ, Christianity and peacemaking.

What is most interesting in the letters' subject matter is the idea of moving traffic through Llyswoerney with a potential bypass, instead of past Darren Farm – as it's not commonly known this has been applied for by the same objectors.

However, the benefits of reduced traffic and the importance of housing are obvious in giving an opportunity for many young people, and those that cannot afford local rental costs, let alone purchase.

If you support these people, please contact the Vale Council Planning Department before May 1 and register your support for the alternative proposal for Darren Farm.

**Gwyneth Squire, Cowbridge.**

## 'Consultation is meaningless'

**I**REFER to an article in The GEM describing MP Alun Cairns' account of his meeting with Sainsbury's where they claimed a "significant majority" supported the development.

I attended the first Sainsbury's 'consultation' meeting in Llanmaes on March 20.

I questioned the Sainsbury's representative on a number of issues – but specifically on this:

"If 100 per cent of the attendees at these meetings say a resounding 'NO' to Sainsbury's coming to Llanmaes, would they

still go ahead with the planning application?"

Answer – "Yes – they will still go ahead with the planning application."

In light of this revelation, what is the purpose of the consultation?

It is meaningless. Sainsbury's have already made up their minds.

Our only hope is that whoever is responsible for accepting or rejecting the planning proposal, has the intelligence to realise that this will be a disaster for the rural Vale.

Llanmaes is a beautiful, peaceful village that is enjoyed by all residents and visitors alike. Let's pray it remains so.  
**Mrs Helen Emerson, Llanmaes.**

## HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
24 Thur	02.18	8.1	15.02	8.0
25 Fri	03.44	8.5	16.16	8.5
26 Sat	04.48	9.0	17.17	9.2
27 Sun	05.41	9.4	18.07	9.5
28 Mon	06.26	9.8	18.52	9.9
29 Tues	07.11	10.1	19.34	10.1
30 Wed	07.56	10.0	20.12	9.9
01 Thur	08.34	9.7	20.49	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.



# Samantha journeys through Rift Valley for the British Heart Foundation

by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE:  
Samantha Stanley-Jones.

**A WOMAN from Sully is planning a 250-mile bike ride in Kenya – to raise money for a popular national charity after her step-father suffered a heart attack.**

Samantha Stanley-Jones told The GEM: "My step-father Kevin had a heart attack when I was doing my post-grad law degree – he and my mum Angela had to go through a lot so I decided I wanted to support the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

"My step-father is okay, but has to take a lot of medication."

Samantha, who works in Cardiff as a recruitment consultant, will take part in her African adventure in November.

"I am cycling 250 miles across Kenya to raise over £3,000 for BHF.

"The route will take me through the Rift Valley from Mount Kenya, across the equator and onto the shores of Lake Victoria.

"The ride will be amazing. I'm nervous, scared and excited."

Samantha points out that heart disease is a huge killer in the United Kingdom and "BHF saves so many lives".

She is currently undergoing a strict fitness regime to prepare her for what lies ahead.

"Crossing the finishing line will be an amazing, rewarding moment. I can't wait!"

She is also involved in other fundraising events in the next few months.

"In May, we plan to do a charity mountain walk up Pen Y Fan so if anybody would like to get involved, please get in touch! All ages are welcome! Just email me at Samjones79@hotmail.co.uk for more information."

To support Samantha's Kenya challenge, go to: [www.justgiving.com/Samantha-Jones34](http://www.justgiving.com/Samantha-Jones34)

## PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB: Heartbleed Bug

RECENT news has been filled with reports of the Heartbleed Bug and the picture is somewhat confusing as is some of the advice.

Companies have IT experts to do what is necessary, but where does that leave the domestic users?

To begin with, it will be helpful to understand what has happened and try to put things into perspective.

It is called a bug, but that is not a virus. A virus is a deliberate attack to achieve some purpose.

This bug is an accidental error of coding that leaves a potential security flaw in a widely used encryption programme.

It was introduced inadvertently in February 2012, and has only recently been spotted.

As it was not spotted by the good guys, it is thought it was not spotted by the bad guys either (it is likely that someone would have bragged about their cleverness and published some of the data they stole, but that hasn't happened.)

The downside is they cannot be certain, because attacks do not leave any digital 'fingerprint'.

The flaw would permit a hacker to get around encryption software and steal data, such as passwords.

This would leave a lot of web sites (about 70 per cent) open to risk.

It is not enough to note that the website you are using has a little padlock in the header because the security programme affected is one that will show the padlock.

Exploitation would allow a hacker to read 64k of a server's memory. Whilst that is a tiny part of the memory, the attack could be repeated many times.

Even so, the hacker cannot browse and choose what he steals and has to make sense of what he gets.

The point is, passwords could be compromised. Since the weakness has been reported, there has been a rush to update security and many major websites were fixed within days and more are working on it. No doubt the hackers will be busy

too and some sites have had data stolen.

Social network sites carry a lot of personal data that hackers would like to grab, and these sites are saying that you should change your password. You need to be sure that they are safe before you change your password, of course, because if they are not, your new password will be at risk.

At least one expert advises that if a site gives you the option to use additional safeguards (most bank sites) you should opt to use them. The extra safeguard will help.

Some sites have informed their users that they are not vulnerable and to carry on as before. If you are concerned about a site you regularly use, then ask them for clarification.

Don't use the same password everywhere. If you lose one to a hacker, you have lost them all.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 13 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 7.30pm: Looking at Skype (free worldwide phone calls); visitors always welcome. See [penarthcomputerclub.co.uk](http://penarthcomputerclub.co.uk).

HOWARD DESMOND

## Musical treat for pensioners

**SULLY U3A's Singing for Pleasure Group recently entertained the residents of Morrell Court, Penarth.**

Eighteen members sang songs from the musicals including Rhythm of Life from *Sweet Charity* and Hushabye Mountain from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. They finished their medley with Somewhere over the Rainbow from *The Wizard of Oz*.

Their singing was so enjoyed that they have been invited back to sing at Christmas. Sully U3A has a general meeting at The Old School, Sully on the second Thursday of every month when new members are welcome.

Twenty groups currently meet at various times of the week and range from badminton to drama and painting.

More information is available at <http://www.sullyu3a.co.uk/> SC

## VIPs hear of plans for the wartime weekend

**BARRY ISLAND'S popular Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre played host to a visit by the Minister for Culture and Sport, John Griffiths on April 17, and his team visited the Barry Tourist Railway-based museum to see Glamorgan's only wartime museum and to discuss the museum's future plans.**

Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron Air Training Corps provided an honour guard for the VIPs, who were introduced to some of the groups who work closely with the Barry at War team which operates the museum.

The Minister met members of the Barry branch of the RAF Association, Cadets of 372 (Barry) Squadron ATC, Swansea Pals Living History Group, Hut Nine Preservation Group and Swansea 1940 Museum.

Barry at War Chair, Ade Pitman said: "Organised by Jane Hutt AM, the Minister's visit was a real boost for the morale of our volunteers, coming as official recognition of the work that we have done and the role that our tiny museum plays in the community."

"Regardless of our size, the museum is at the forefront of Barry and the Vale's Great War centenary programme and plays a supporting role to other organisations such as the RNLI and the YMCA in their Great War commemorative programmes."

"Our annual Wartime Weekend event attracts thousands of visitors to Barry Island, and I was able to discuss our very special plans to make this year's event the biggest and best yet."

### Fight off Easter excess!

**VALE Council-led Barry communities First and Public Health Wales are launching a free weight management group for eight weeks from April 29 (11am – 12.30pm) at Barry Leisure Centre.**

Learn about what food is included in a balanced diet, how to create and follow a healthy food plan, how to increase weight loss through physical activity, and how to interpret food labels.

Contact 07899665806, or email [communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

"The 372 (Barry) Squadron had the chance to show the Minister how Barry at War group work with, and support Barry's youth organisations by discussing with him the forthcoming 'Battle of Britain Project', and the 'RAF in Normandy' D-Day commemorative project, which will involve taking some of the Cadets to France later in the year."

"Above all, the visit gave our team the opportunity to share our vision of a best in class Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre attraction in Barry that will be both an educational facility and an all-season tourist attraction."

Local AM Jane Hutt, a regular visitor and supporter of the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre, said: "I was very pleased to welcome the Culture Minister, John Griffiths, to Barry. His visit also provided an opportunity to see the Barry Tourist Railway, as well as the fascinating museum which is playing a significant role in the Vale's Great War centenary programme."

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre is open every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm–4pm and the second Sunday each month. Check the website at [www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk](http://www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk) for details or call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

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## Ashgrove family dips in to raise funds for school



ON January 1, one of the Ashgrove school families braved the New Year's Day Dip on Barry Island to raise funds for an outdoor intervention based at the school called 'Coastal Connections'.

"This offers pupils an opportunity to learn and explore in an alternative environment, with a focus upon health,

well-being, self-esteem and confidence; £512 was raised in total," said class teacher Kerry Baker.

The funds raised have meant that new equipment can be bought enriching the pupils' experience. One of the pupils stated: "With our new camera, I will be able to take photographs of the different things I find at the beach and then try to identify them back at school."

## Proof that anything men can do (on building sites) women can also do!

SEVEN women showed that building site work is 'not just for the boys' when they attended the first girls' construction taster day at the former magistrates' court site in Barry.

They were welcomed to the Thompson Street site by Jchu project manager Vince Alm and Newydd surveyor Rhiannydd Jenkins. The Welsh Minister for Finance, Jane Hutt, was present and chatted to the girls before accompanying them out to their first workshop.

The day consisted of 'hands-on' sessions in brickwork, carpentry and site levelling and an introduction to groundworks, plus a tour of the site.

Bernie Mark, the construction opportunities coordinator at Jchu said: "This taster day event was designed to show those women who may be interested in the construction industry that it is possible to make a career in what is often seen as a male dominated environment."

"The message of the day was 'Why not try it?' and we were delighted to see so many enthusiastic girls attending."



ABOVE RIGHT: Seven local women attended a construction 'taster day' at the former magistrates' court in Barry.

## MP's call for clean-up

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns has taken a local resident's cause to the local authority, asking for the condition of some parts of the Gibbonsdown estate to be dramatically improved.

He inspected garages and walls blighted by graffiti and left uncleared for years, making one of Barry's closest communities look unsightly and commented: "There is no reason for some of the structures in the area to be left like this for so

long. The state of the graffiti has left one of Barry's closest communities in a poor state of repair.

"I have written to the local authority to ask for the area to be cleaned up and then kept in continuously good condition.

"If the authority does not take action, I will help residents clean it up myself," he promised.

"Leaving areas in this condition is simply not good enough".

RIGHT: The Vale MP is pictured outside Gibbonsdown garages that are blighted by graffiti.



Preparing for the New Year's Day swim on Barry Island.

## Schools crack the Coding Olympics!

ON April 15, the first All Girls Coding and Programming Olympics, sponsored by BT, was held at the Urdd Sleepover Centre in Cardiff Bay.

Club Innov8 is the Communities First poverty deprivation grant project run between four Barry schools: Bryn Haffren Girls High School and Cadoxton, Colcot and Jenner Park Primaries in Barry.

The project has a full-time dedicated co-ordinator and is run in conjunction with the Big Learning Company. The aim is to enthuse and engage children and their families in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects and to provide inspiration for those children to pursue careers in those disciplines.

The aim of the two-day Olympic

event was to increase the number of girls interested in coding and coding careers, as so few women are currently involved in the industry.

There were various activities and challenges involving computer programming, coding and app building – such as designing and coding a working clock on an iPad, and creating a virtual fish tank using Kodu, a Microsoft program which teaches children how to code.

"I like the workshops because it was something new that I had never done before and I really enjoyed it," said Louana, Cadoxton Primary.

"My favourite part of the two days was watching the banana piano, helping the girls, and having a delicious dinner in Cardiff Bay," said Rhys, ex-Cadoxton Primary/co director of Mileometre Media 11.

## DRUG TESTING CARRIED OUT AT A BARRY PUB

THE evening of Friday, March 28, saw officers from South Wales Police carry out drug testing at The Buccaneer pub in Barry.

This initiative was in partnership with the licensee of The Buccaneer and the Safer Vale Partnership team from Barry Police Station.

A state of the art drug itemiser machine was used to carry out the tests by swabbing clients' hands prior to entry to The Buccaneer.

Over 100 customers were tested as a condition of entry into the pub. This

involved them having their hands swabbed with a piece of paper which was then fed into the machine.

"From the swab, the machine could then detect any illegal substance and the level of that drug found on the swab.

Inspector Paul Tinkler said: "This series of operations shows the commitment of South Wales Police, with its partners, to tackle all forms of criminality."

"Owing to this approach we have seen reductions in both violent crime and alcohol related incidents."



### CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

Mae gan Gyngor Tref y Barri le gwag ar gyfer Cynrychiolydd Awdurdod Llai yn Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg ac Ysgol Nant Talwg ac fe hoffai wahodd unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb i wneud cais i gynrychioli'r Cyngor ar y Corff Llywodraethol hynny.

Mae rôl Cynrychiolydd Awdurdod Llai yn swydd wirfoddol am bedair blynedd a byddai disgwyl i'r ymgeisydd llwyddiannus fynychu cyfarfodydd rheolaidd ac adrodd i'r Cyngor ar y cyfarfodydd hynny.

Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth neu os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn gwneud cais cysylltwch â Mr Cliff Lewis, Clerc y Dref ar 01446 704920 neu trwy e-bost: info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk i gael ffurflen gais. Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer gwneud cais yw: Mai 9, 2014

### BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

Barry Town Council currently has a vacancy for a Minor Authority Representative on Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Nant Talwg and would like to invite interested parties to apply to represent the Council on this Governing Body.

The role of Minor Authority Representative is a voluntary, four year position and the successful candidate would be expected to attend regular meetings and report back to the Council on those meetings.

For further information or if you are interested in applying please contact Mr Cliff Lewis, Town Clerk on 01446 704920 or email: info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk for an application form. The closing date for applications is: 9th May, 2014.

## Off-road bikes are targeted in Barry Docks

POLICE in Barry have launched an operation to tackle a seasonal rise in road-related anti-social behaviour.

The fine weather and lighter nights have brought an increase in complaints about off-road motorbikes being driven around Barry Docks and also annoyance from loud music being played from parked cars at the Waterfront.

PC Nicola Owen, neighbourhood beat manager from Barry Police Station said:

"Unfortunately, at this time of year, we see an increase in the number of complaints about the use of off-

road motorbikes, quad bikes and road-related anti-social behaviour such as speeding and gathering of vehicles, often with loud music being played from them.

"This type of behaviour causes disruption to the local community.

"We have started an operation to provide a visible deterrent and disrupt these activities. We intend issuing Section 59 warnings for anyone caught causing a nuisance."

"Once the Section 59 warning is issued, anyone caught again is liable to have their bike or vehicle confiscated".



## Vale town where time stands still

**S**EVERAL recent letters have raised concerns about the imagined disastrous impact for the Vale which would come about as a result of a merger with Cardiff.

Whilst Cardiff has become a vibrant city which has developed and grown in recent years, in comparison Barry is a town where time has stood still, seemingly unable to attract any outside business interests or investment.

I am yet to see anything which gives any sort of confidence that this area's fortunes

**READER'S VIEW**  
are likely to improve anytime soon or that a plan is being formulated by those at the helm. Endless political blame shifting and hand wringing have become a smokescreen for inactivity and scaremongering.

Having lived in Barry for 31 years, I am hard pressed to identify anything noteworthy since Barry became a unitary authority in 1996.

If a referendum was conducted, I think I would sooner take my chances with a merger than watching the continuing decline.  
**Rob Taylor, Barry.**

## Tee off for charity

**TEE off with Welsh Hearts – the heart charity for Wales at a charity golf day at Cardiff golf club on Friday, May 2, fundraising for defibrillators and heart research in Wales.**

Shotgun start at 1pm: the competition will be a team stable-ford with the best two scores to count on each hole; 3/4 handicap allowance; maximum handicap allowance: men 24, ladies 30.

Prizegiving dinner at 6.30pm where prizes will be awarded; celebrity comedian. Entry per team of four is £195. Contact Sharon Owen on 07730944700 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org, to book.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**RHOOSE and District History Society will hold its monthly meeting on Friday, April 25 at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose. Ken Rise will speak on 'The History of Dunraven Castle'.**

### Scouts' reunion

**PAST members of 11th Barry Sea Scouts are being called to 90th celebrations at Cadoxton Conservative Club on Saturday, April 26 from 3pm – 7pm.**

For full details, telephone 07779658331.

## EASTER PARTY FOR FRIENDS

**FRIENDS and Neighbours in Barry celebrated Easter with a party at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall.**

Over 40 members enjoyed a free buffet and entertainment with Steve on guitar.

The Easter hat competition was judged by Jane Hutt AM, and there were prizes for all who entered.

All members of Friends and Neighbours received a chocolate Easter bunny. The group are now looking forward to their day trip to Cwmbran. Contact 01446 400044 for details.

## Funeral home's new chapel

**FUNERAL directors Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service now has its own independent service chapel, on Windsor Road (formerly Windsor Road United Reformed), Barry, where they are able to offer an alternative funeral ceremony for**

**people of any or no religious faiths.**

The move marks a growing appetite for non religious and more personal funerals, Lyndsay Ellis explained.

"Our new chapel will host up to 350 people and services can be conducted by religious leaders or humanist celebrants," he added.

## Putting families first sessions

**PARENTS and carers with children aged 0 – 11 years can join a putting families first (PFF) community programme, every Wednesday from April 30 at 1pm – 3pm in The People's Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry.**

Available to parents/carers in the Communities First cluster (Gibbonsdown, Court, Cadoc, Buttrills and Castleland wards) are sessions that include play, creative textiles (three-week course), adult relaxation and creche facility.

Contact Michelle Atkins on 01446 709517/07812993737.

# MP's concern at delay to eastern promenade

by GEM REPORTER

**THE local MP says he is concerned that work on the eastern promenade at Barry Island may not be finished until early summer.**

Alun Cairns told The GEM that he had written to the Vale Council to find out when the completion date will be and whether the extension to work would increase costs for the tax-payer.

Originally, work was due to be complete in March.

He said: "Having already seen the regeneration of the Eastern promenade delayed from its original completion date of March, the scheme is apparently now facing further delay and uncertainty."

"I was led to believe that it would finally be delivered in May, but suggestions that this could be as late as early summer are now very concerning indeed."

"I have written to the Vale Council seeking clarity on the matter."

"Residents are entitled to ask whether these delays are going to cost the taxpayer money and there are obvious complications

when projects like this cross over into a new financial year, particularly from a budgeting point of view."

The director of development services, Rob Thomas, stated that the council hoped to finish work by the end of June.

He explained: "There have been some delays to the regeneration work on the eastern promenade."

"These are a result of a number of factors, not least the storms that hit Barry Island earlier in the year."

"The council is working with the

contractor, WRW Construction, to complete the improvements to the promenade as quickly as possible."

He added: "Our aim is to finish the work by the end of June. The cost of the scheme is still within the budget provided at the outset of the project."

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## 'Wasted resource' targeted by Empty Homes Wales

**HOUSING and regeneration Minister Carl Sargeant** has expressed his delight after visiting a long-term empty property currently being refurbished by Empty Homes Wales in Barry.

He said: "Empty properties are a wasted resource which can often have an adverse effect on the quality of life of individuals, neighbourhoods and communities."

"We have set a target of getting 5,000 empty properties back into use in Wales during this term of government and I'm delighted to see the good work that local authorities, housing associations and charities are doing to help deliver this."



"This refurbishment in Barry is a great example of what can be achieved - turning a long-term empty property into a good quality, family home and making a real difference to the community in the process."

The Minister visited a house in Barry which had been left empty and neglected for more than three years.

Michala Rudman, Empty Homes Wales project officer, said: "I am delighted that we

have been able to work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to bring this property back into use."

"Empty Homes are a blight on all our communities and we need to do all we can to tackle them."

## CHORAL WORKSHOP WITH A TOP VOICE COACH

**COWBRIDGE** Choral Society is holding a choral workshop on Saturday, May 10 from 10.30am to 4.30pm at our Lady and St Illtyd Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TQ.

It will be led by Kate Woolveridge, a highly-skilled and experienced vocal practitioner.

While working independently and for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Holland Park Opera and the Welsh National Opera, Kate has empowered both individuals and groups from across society to find, explore and develop their voices.

Among her many projects, she has formed community choirs in the Rhondda and Merthyr Valleys, Cardiff and Swansea, worked with the women in Holloway prison and the men of Parc prison.

She currently teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and tutors in the National Youth Choir of Wales.

The workshop will be open to all and contact details are on [www.cowbridge.co.uk](http://www.cowbridge.co.uk).

New members are always welcome to join, and experience is not essential.

Rehearsals take place in the United Reform Church, Westgate Street (opposite the police station) every Thursday at 7.30pm. PG

## 'Here is the news' - according to St Richard Gwyn!

**MP Alun Cairns** was put to the test by pupils from St Richard Gwyn RC School in the Sky Newsroom, as part of their day at the Sky Skills Studio.

The Barry school pupils learned how to research, film, edit, present and broadcast a news item at the Sky Studios in west London.

As part of their reporting exercise on the risks of bullying and cyber bullying, they interviewed the Vale MP for his views.

The scheme is aimed at school pupils, which allows participants to work with technology, including broadcast quality cameras, green screens and touch screen edit tables.

Mr Cairns reported: "The pupils were so impressive. They had obviously researched the subject and put me to the test on what changes need to take place. It was a marvellous opportunity for pupils to not only learn about broadcasting technology, but to use their skills from the classroom in a real life working environment."



ABOVE: Alun with St Richard Gwyn Pupils, who were reading the news in the Sky Skills Studio.

## AM joins taster workshop

LAST week, Vale AM Jane Hutt, joined a group of women who had signed up for bricklaying and carpentry 'taster' workshops, on the Thompson Street, Barry, housing development, to gain skills and secure jobs in the construction industry.

"There is a real need to break down barriers and encourage women to train in construction skills to meet employers' needs as the sector revives," she commented.

"It was great to see how quickly the women on the course picked up the skills in bricklaying and carpentry and some were reviving old skills as well".

## Tai Chi at St Athan

A NEW weekly Tai Chi group will be starting on April 29 at The Gathering Place from 11.30am-12.30pm, run by Sue Provis, an Instructor member of The Tai Chi Union of Great Britain, and in conjunction with Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale. For more information, contact Sue Provis on 01446 744643.

# SUMMER'S COMING...

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## PLANT SALE

THE annual Cowbridge Physic Garden plant sale takes place this Saturday (April 26) in Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge, from 10am until 3pm, with opportunities for gardeners to acquire superb quality plants at bargain prices!

## A PHEASANT'S LOT IS NOT A HAPPY ONE ...

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week was Harold Williams, who in the 1970 was earning £50 per week as a shipwright in the north, applied for a position as an assistant gamekeeper on a local estate.

This paid him £17 per week and provided him with a caravan that had electricity, but no water or toilet facilities.

His job was to prepare for a pheasant shoot. He explained that the annual work as a gamekeeper was to rear the pheasants.

Normally a pheasant will produce approximately 15 eggs, but when the nest had about seven eggs in it, they would remove the excess eggs, and the bird would go on producing far more eggs.

The eggs were then incubated in heated pens. He would whistle a regular tune/ditty so that the birds grew to know the whistle, and later in life would come

to the whistle! They were slowly introduced to the woodlands in wire cages, until they were able to go out into the woods. However, as there was no suitable food for them, they were fed wheat, which had the problem of attracting other birds and vermin which had to be deterred.

As pheasants much prefer to walk or run and not to fly, when the 'shoots' are on from November to February, they have to be made to fly by the beaters.

Harold emphasised that these activities are very much contrived events, mainly for social occasions, with the birds being bred, fed and encouraged to fly, just so they can be shot at!

The Barry Men's Forum goes on its annual outing next week, this year visiting Cosford. This will be the last meeting of the present series.

The next session commences on the first Thursday in October. PMW

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## More growth in Wales than rest of UK – it's good news for the young

**THERE has been a great deal to welcome in the weeks leading up to Easter, which will provide new opportunities and prospects for many people in the Vale and Wales as a whole.**

The latest employment figures again show unemployment in Wales falling with a rate of 6.8 per cent compared with 6.9 per cent in the UK which shows that Wales is continuing to outperform the rest of the UK, as the First Minister, Carwyn Jones said last week when the latest figures were published.

He went on to say that over the past year, Wales has seen the largest increase in the rate of employment and a lower unemployment rate than the UK average and we have seen a bigger growth in private sector employment than in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Most importantly, economic inactivity and youth unemployment are falling more in Wales than in nearly all other parts of the UK.

This is very important news for the young

people I met with the Education and Skills Minister, Huw Lewis last week with the Vale of Glamorgan Council who have been elected by their peers to serve in the first ever Vale of Glamorgan youth cabinet. Introduced to the minister by the Leader, Coun Neil Moore, the youth cabinet members asked the education minister a series of thoughtful questions, which indicated their high level of understanding and commitment to their new important roles, as 'ambassadors and champions' of young people in the county.

We talked about the opportunities provided by the Welsh Government's 'Jobs Growth Wales' programme for 16 to 24 year olds which has a success rate of 80 per cent with 11,000 jobs now created and also 220 young people have set up their own businesses through this programme.

The number of new apprentices in Wales has risen from 17,900 in 2011/12 to 18,030 in 2012/13 and 90 per cent of qualified Welsh apprentices go into

### ASSEMBLY NOTES



**by Jane Hutt AM**  
(Minister for Finance)

sustained employment or further learning. All this backed by Welsh Government and European funding.

Our tourism industry has also grown over the past year with nearly 10 million people visiting Wales, boosting the economy by £1.7bn. This will include visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan with Barry Island and the Heritage Coast as part of the Wales Coast Path all benefiting from the boost.

Travelling on the Barry Tourist Railway with Culture and Sport Minister John Griffiths provided an opportunity for us to view the works on the Waterfront with the new road layout to Barry Island clearly

visible.

I was also pleased to join the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology Ken Skates last week in Cowbridge at the site of a superfast broadband cabinet on the High Street which will enable businesses to work faster and more efficiently with faster upload and download speeds.

This was good news for the Bear Hotel where we discussed the opportunities this will provide for visitors and business people staying at the hotel as well as for local businesses in the wider Vale.

I was able to make the point that European investment is playing a major role in helping deliver Next Generation Broadband to 96 per cent of Wales' homes and businesses by 2016.

The combined investment in fibre broadband in Wales is around £425m of which £90m is from the European Development Fund with BT funding of £220m, Welsh Government £58m and UK Government £57m.

So this is all good and promising news for the Vale and for Wales as we enjoy the spring Easter

sunshine, which was welcome on the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness through Barry, with a large crowd gathering as we walked to King's Square with the churches of Barry.

We also reflected on those in need in our communities, as I see in my surgeries, and this was expressed very clearly last week by religious leaders and faith groups who called for action to tackle food poverty.

The Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan gave a strong message saying: "It's incredible that in a country as relatively wealthy as ours, where we talk of economic recovery, there are still people who have to depend on food handouts to feed their families."

*We seek a fair and balanced economic recovery which can bring hope and prospects for all, especially our young people, the vulnerable in our community and those in need and we must invest wisely to achieve this.*

## Christine stunned by royal summons to the Palace!

**AN inspirational Vale woman, who has helped hundreds of women in Wales to start their own businesses and progress in their careers, has been honoured by the Queen for promoting enterprise.**

Christine Atkinson, Deputy Director of the Centre for Enterprise and Head of the Women's Entrepreneurship Hub at the University of South Wales, will receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2014 at Buckingham Palace in July.

It recognises individuals who have played an outstanding and significant role in promoting enterprise skills and attitudes in others across the UK.

Christine, who lives in Cowbridge, joined the university in 1999, and is dedicated to promoting enterprise and career progression for women – including the creation of the Women's Entrepreneurship Hub in 2008. This has been

involved in projects in Wales, the UK and across Europe.

She is currently heading-up the WAVE – Women Adding Value to the Economy – project on gender pay gaps in employment and self-employment in Wales, and established the Vale Women's Business Network 11 years ago.

Christine said: "I was truly shocked when I received notification of my nomination for the Queen's Award and am

honoured to be recognised for my work. I am passionate about helping women push through gender and stereotype barriers in their work, and feel that entrepreneurship in particular, can often be an excellent career path for women."

She was nominated for the award by Janet Scicluna, a Cardiff-based business mentor, who has worked in the same field for more than 25 years.

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## MP brings 'Parliament – the Biography' to festival

**THERE'S a great opportunity for followers of the Cowbridge Book Festival to gain an insight into one of our greatest national institutions.**

Chris Bryant MP will be presenting his new book "Parliament – The Biography" on Friday, May 2 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge United Free Church.

Tickets including a glass of wine will be £5. It is the first of a planned two volumes covering the story of Parliament's earliest days in the 14th century up to the end of the 18th century, when Parliament began to take on its modern form.

He tells this epic tale through the extraordinary characters at the heart of the action. It is a vivid, colourful account of the people whose passions and obsessions, strengths and weaknesses have made us what we are today.

The book is a fascinating and authoritative history of the institution at the heart of Britain.

Mary Beard enjoyed this wry view of the history of Parliament "from the inside" and calls the MP a "myth-buster".

Ken Clarke took great pleasure from "this remarkably readable and scholarly account of the emergence of the British Parliament and its in-depth view of the past".

Chris Bryant is a British Labour Party politician who has been the Member of Parliament for Rhondda since 2001 and the Shadow Minister for Borders and Immigration since 2011.

He was previously the Minister of State for Europe and the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons. Educated at Cheltenham College and then Oxford he is a familiar face on BBC TV Question Time.



**CHRIS BRYANT MP.**

Don't miss out – this promises to be an interesting and informative event! For details, and all festival information, please visit the website [www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk](http://www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk).

Tickets are available from David Barnes (Dry cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge, Nickleby's Pound Field, Llantwit Major or online from TicketlineUK, via the Festival Website or phone me on 01446 774827.

There's still time to enter the Festival's Creative Writing Competition. The closing date is April 30 – all details on our website.

*Stella Cheeseman*

## Weycock campaign group celebrates

**THE Friends of Weycock Cross, the local campaigning group, are celebrating after a planning appeal for the area was withdrawn.**

Local MP Alun Cairns said: "It goes to show what effective

a co-ordinated activity by the community can achieve.

"I have to pay tribute to Frank and Debra Cleland and all of those involved with us and the Friends of Weycock Cross Action Group."

## Probus has virtual tour of Carisbrook Castle...

**PHILIP BOWEN made a welcome return visit as the guest speaker at the mid April meeting of the Probus Club of Dinas Powys.**

Phil, who is a retired headteacher from Swansea, is a passionate and enthusiastic historian and, on this occasion, presented an illustrated talk about Carisbrook Castle on the Isle of Wight.

The castle is probably best known for being used as the prison of King Charles I, prior to being taken to London where he was executed.

In his talk, Phil led the enthralled audience through a tour of the castle starting from the outer defences and culminating in climbing the 71 steps to the Keep.

In his virtual tour, he outlined the history of the castle through Norman, medieval and Elizabethan times, explaining the practical difficulties of attacking the castle – including the threats from crossbows, longbows and 'Murder Holes'.

To add a bit of fun to the talk, Phil also warned his audience that he would hold a test on what he had said and, true to his word, he

set a written test of ten questions – even providing pencils and paper so that no one could have any reason to be excused!

Many members almost felt that they were back in school, although most achieved a creditable score, with one even achieving 9/10 out of ten.

Probus member Peter Blackwell offered an equally entertaining vote of thanks.

Dinas Powys Probus Club meets every other Tuesday in Dinas Powys Golf Club and is for retired men from the area.

**PFC**

## PORTHCAWL MAN STOLE FROM CLUB

**by AJ SICLUNA**

**THE steward of Porthcawl United Services Club committed a "breach of trust" when he stole money from his employers, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.**

Paul Lewis, 58, was caught committing the crime on CCTV.

Lewis, of Happy Valley Caravan Site, Porthcawl, admitted the charge of theft and was sentenced to an 18-month community order and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work and to pay a victim surcharge of £60.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said Lewis stole £50. Over a period of time, £479 was found to be missing, but this had nothing to do with Lewis.

When arrested and interviewed by the police, he said he had been taking

small amounts for six months, but could not give the exact figure.

"It was nothing less than a breach of trust," said Mr Trigg.

Lewis's counsel, Alex Greenwood, said that as a result of the conviction, he had lost employment in a number of establishments.

Judge Neil Bidder QC said: "I hope he is not employed again as a person in charge of money. He can't be trusted."

The judge added: "You pilfered from the till not a great deal, but it was dishonesty."

He pointed out that Lewis had pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity and was about to undergo a knee operation.

## Day of smiles for disability sport

**STAFF from Barry Leisure Centre and Disability Sport Wales Development Officer, Simon Jones, organised a day of physical activity for disabled adults when 18 adults with varying abilities attended.**

A spokesperson reported that activities were adapted so that everybody could take part and participants were supported by staff from the council's adult services team. The activities included badminton, football, seated aerobics and use of the gym facilities.

Simon Jones, commented: "The aim of the day was to create opportunities for disabled people in the leisure centre and show how the staff can adapt activities to allow everyone to get involved. Everyone had a smile on their face and enjoyed the activities."

## War memorial research work

**MEMBERS of Sully U3A's local history group are researching World War I casualties commemorated on the memorial in Sully Church.**

Names on the memorial are George Northcote, John Northcote, Wilfred Northcote (may also be spelled Northcott), Leyshon Villis, John

Dempsey, Arthur Griffiths, Robert Davies and William Best. Richard Wain, VC is commemorated on his parents' grave in Sully churchyard.

They would like to hear from anyone who has information on [speakers@sullyu3a.co.uk](mailto:speakers@sullyu3a.co.uk); alternatively, information can be sent via The Old School, South Road, Sully.

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## Age Connect spring fayre

**AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale held a successful spring fayre at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, opened by Vale Mayor, COUN MARGARET WILKINSON.**

Stalls included homemade preserves, cakes, craft made by the Stitch and Bitch class that meet at the shop, tombola and a raffle. The fayre raised a record £300.

For details of any of activities, contact 01446 732385.

## Superfast fibre broadband good for business

**FAST fibre broadband is now available in Peterston Super Ely, Rhooose and Southerndown in the Vale, thanks to Superfast Cymru.**

Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology, Ken Skates, said: "Superfast fibre broadband has the power to transform the way we do business, the way we keep in touch, how we access entertainment and how we use public services."

"The Superfast Cymru programme is probably the most ambitious in the UK. We aim to reach 96 per cent of properties by the end of spring 2016 making fibre available to more people more quickly than the rest of the UK. The residents and businesses in Peterston Super Ely, Rhooose and Southerndown are the latest to benefit."

"Wales will not just become one of the most connected countries in the world by 2016 – it is going further, faster and quicker in reaching this ambitious goal."



## BARRY YOUTH RAPED BOY

**A YOUTH who appeared at Cardiff Crown Court admitted raping a boy in a house in Barry.**

The teenager, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to a charge of rape and inciting the boy to engage in sexual activity.

He was sentenced to an intensive supervision order for two years, made subject to an 8pm to 6.30am electronically-tagged curfew.

In addition, he was made subject to a sexual offences prevention order for two-and-a-half years, and to register as a sex offender.

Judge Eleri Rees told the youth: "It goes without saying that this kind of sexual activity was appalling."

"His mother has suffered anguish and anger, and is concerned at the impact on the boy."

"If the defendant were 18 or over, it would have been a significant custodial

### Report by AJ SICLUNA

sentence."

She said that he had shown genuine remorse and shame.

Prosecutor David Lloyd said that on October 29, the victim went to an address in Barry where the offences occurred.

The defendant, who had no previous convictions, told him to tell no-one what had happened and if he did, he himself would get into trouble.

Later, the victim's mother became concerned at her son's behaviour and when she questioned him, he disclosed what had happened.

The defendant denied what occurred and the police were contacted. He was interviewed on three occasions, and again denied that anything had happened.

When DNA evidence was put to him, he continued his denial, but at his final interview

made admissions, showed some remorse, and apologised for not telling the truth.

Mr Lloyd said a victim impact statement highlighted the effect on him and his family.

The defendant's solicitor, Stephen Clarke, said the court had to take into account the welfare of the defendant.

"He is naive and socially isolated. In the past, he was bullied at school and found it difficult to cope."

He said he had made no attempt to minimise the seriousness of his actions.

"Initially, he could not face up to doing wrong. He has let down his family and everybody else," said Mr Clarke.

His mother, he continued, supported him and she felt ashamed.

Custody, said Mr Clarke, would have serious consequences.

"He wants to work, and he wants to progress," he added.

**PICTURED (right) is Mark Eager, conductor of the Welsh Sinfonia Orchestra, at the start of his epic attempt to run six marathons in six days, from St David's Hall, Cardiff to the Royal Albert Hall, London - to raise funds for Crescendo, a charity which aims to take live classical music into classrooms in Wales.**

Mark used to live in Llyswoyney and has regularly been involved with Cowbridge Comprehensive, coaching and conducting the school orchestra.

Mark's Crescendo Run commenced on Monday (April 21) and will end this Saturday - on the stage of the Royal Albert Hall.

He is pictured outside St David's Hall, Cardiff, with three students from the Royal College of Music and Drama, who accompanied him on the first 10km of his journey.

He has a website for donations: [www.justgiving.com/crescendorun](http://www.justgiving.com/crescendorun)



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### Free Fitclub

A FREE community Fitclub is being run every Saturday and Sunday at Barry Knap.

There is also a free running club available on Tuesday evenings, along with advice on how to lead a healthy, active lifestyle and nutrition.

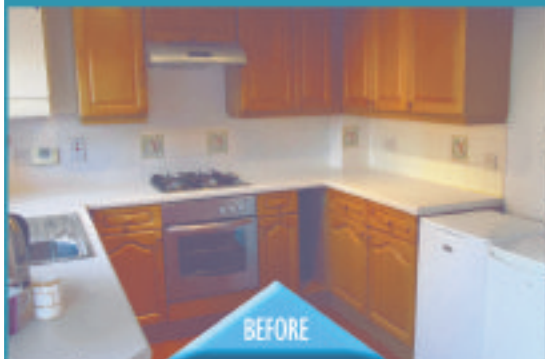
Contact Luke Hanlon on 07411 803455 or email [luke\\_hanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:luke_hanlon@hotmail.co.uk) for information.

### Lib-Dem advice

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm on April 21.

No appointment is necessary.

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# LUKE (19) IS UK'S TOP APPRENTICE!

CARDIFF and Vale College student Luke Mayor is the top electrical apprentice in the UK – according to judges of a national competition.

Luke (19) from Dinas Powys, a second year apprentice, won the Sparks National Apprentice of the Year Award and was presented with a £1,000 cheque from sponsors Megger who also gave the college a £500 voucher to spend with them.

Earlier in the year, he won the Welsh heat and progressed to the two-day UK finals at the JTL National Centre for Excellence in Birmingham.

"Winning the competition was a bit of a shock," Luke said. "I wasn't expecting it at all. I couldn't have done it without all the support from my employers Scenic Services and the college – my tutor Geoff is amazing."



Luke Mayor with his tutor Geoff Shaw.

## Bryneithin care home goes up for sale

AS part of the Vale Council's strategy to dispose of surplus assets and to make available building land for development, it has appointed Savills to market Bryneithin, the former residential home in Dinas Powys.

Garth Carter, of Savills, said: "The site is self-contained and well-screened with an impressive tree-lined approach."

"We expect interest from local and regional developers and operators in both the healthcare and retirement sectors. A sale by tender will be conducted and we expect to receive competitive interest in this unique site."

## Asda is coming to Waterfront

VALE MP Alun Cairns has met Asda bosses to confirm the retail giant's plans for a new superstore on the Waterfront in Barry.

There had been rumours that the company were considering pulling out of the deal and the local MP said he wanted to clarify the position.

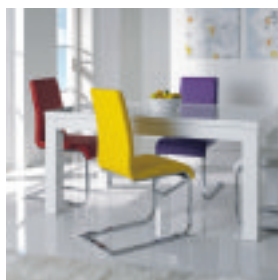
"After the recent rumours surrounding Asda's intentions, I am so pleased they have confirmed their plans to go ahead."

"This is great news for the local economy," the MP commented.

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# All set for Ty Hafan's Midnight Sleep Walk

**HUNDREDS of women are set to descend on the Welsh capital for Ty Hafan's annual Midnight Sleep Walk on Friday, May 16.**

More than 300 have already signed up for the six-mile walk from the Millennium Stadium at midnight and a neon theme has been launched as a tribute to life-limited children and young people who brighten the lives of their families.

Each walker will receive a fun pack, including flashing neon headwear and glow jewellery.

Among mums of children and young people supported by the Sully hospice will be Kelly Matthews from Ystrad, whose daughter, Willow, suffers from Central Hypoventilation and is connected to a ventilator 24 hours a day.

The mum-of-one will give a talk on the night to share her Ty Hafan experiences: "Ty Hafan has helped take away our stresses; having that break helps us cope so we can carry on with the next few months. We don't realise how stressed we've been until we've had that rest," she said.

Ty Hafan's support has enabled Willow, aged two, to achieve more than she was ever expected to. She now plays, verbalises, and is even starting to stand on her own.

"We are incredibly proud of Willow. She brings so much joy to our lives and it's lovely to know everyone at Ty Hafan adores her just as much as we do. They are like stars in the sky. They are all really special to us and we want to do anything we can to show our support," Kelly added.

Jessica Morgan from Ty Hafan said: "We need to raise more than £3.5m each year to provide care and support to hundreds of families across Wales. The new neon theme has generated lots of excitement and we are urging more ladies to register so they can enjoy a fantastic night while helping to raise vital funds so we can continue supporting life-limited children and their families."

Registration is £10 per person and a £20 group discount is available to groups of five or more. Visit [midnightsleepwalk.co.uk](http://midnightsleepwalk.co.uk) or call 029 2053 2282.



ABOVE: Kelly and Damien Matthews with their daughter Willow.

## £10,000 jackpot!

**THE Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery has reached £10,000 for the first time this year.**

As the rollover prize has not been won for the past 19 weeks the fund now stands at £10,000 and could reach a maximum of £12,000, where it will become a guaranteed prize.

"By becoming a member of Crackerjackpot for £1 a week, supporters have the chance to win big prizes which could fund a dream holiday, a new car and or maybe some home improvements," said John Mladenovic, Ty Hafan's lottery general manager.

"Winning £10,000 could make a real difference to someone's life and we hope it will attract more local people to support us by playing the lottery."

"As well as being in with a chance of winning big cash prizes, every member of Crackerjackpot makes a real difference to hundreds of life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales supported by Ty Hafan."

"Crackerjackpot provides a vital source of reliable income for Ty Hafan, raising around a third of the total amount needed every year."

The hospice began its own lottery in 1998 and has paid out more than £1.5 million to lucky winners from all over Wales who have chosen to support the hospice.

Contact [www.lottery.tyhafan.org](http://www.lottery.tyhafan.org) or call 02920 532253.

## DANCE FITNESS

**A MUNDO Dance fitness class will be held at Penarth's Paget Rooms every Wednesday evening from 7.15pm to 8.45pm (starting on April 29).**

Mundo Dance was created by Colombian-born dancer and choreographer Yonier Garcia who started teaching dance classes at the age of 15 in his home country moved to south Wales eight years ago.

For more information, contact Moria Trezise on 07975 732966.

# SPANISH EYES SMILING ON LOCAL HAIRDRESSING APPRENTICE STEPHANIE

**A beauty apprentice from Rhose Point has swapped the spa where she works to experience workshops in Spain – as part of a European exchange project.**

Stephanie Simmonds, from The Vale Spa, Hensol, is currently in Tarragona, Spain, along with three other hair and beauty apprentices from Bridgend, Ammanford and Haverfordwest.

Stephanie, a former pupil at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, has been chosen to take part in the Health and Beauty Network Europe project, which involves short exchanges of four hair and beauty apprentices and two staff from Bridgend-based ISA Training, the largest independent hair and beauty training provider in Wales, in conjunction with partners in Spain, Turkey and Poland.

The project aims to enhance the learning experience of apprentices, increase their confidence and broaden their career horizons.

Stephanie is taking part in colour workshops by Schwarzkopf, Hot Stone, 3D Nail sculpture, Airbrushing and Creative Hairstyling workshops in the packed four-day itinerary.

The visit has been arranged by ISA Training, the largest independent hair and beauty training provider in Wales, in conjunction with partners in Spain, Turkey and Poland.

Stephanie, who is flying through her Five Star beauty apprenticeship with ISA Training at the prestigious Vale Resort Spa, said: "I am so lucky to have been chosen to go



Stephanie Simmonds, who is looking forward to the Spanish adventure.

to Tarragona. I can't wait to learn new techniques to bring back to the spa."

ISA Training's managing director, Berni Tyler, thanked the owners of all the salons in Wales for agreeing to release their apprentices for five days.

"We now live in a global age and we need to provide exciting learning opportunities for our work based learners,"

said Mrs Tyler. "We have much to learn from other countries and they can also learn from us."

"We want to enhance the learning experience and inspire our learners to realise that hairdressing and beauty therapy are professions that can grant them a passport to travel the world."

## Libraries to take on a wider role?

**ON April 28, the Vale Council's cabinet will consider a report on the future of library services in the Vale that stipulates no libraries will close.**

Instead, the council is considering working in partnership with community groups and volunteers to broaden their use.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the council, said: "No changes to library services in the Vale have been agreed. However, due to the financial pressure that we are currently facing, cabinet will be considering a report on the future of libraries in the Vale. No library closures are being proposed."

"The proposed changes that will be given consideration are the result of an in-depth review of the library service and have been shaped by a programme

of consultation with both library users and library staff."

Following consideration by cabinet, the report will then be referred to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny committee for their comment. Further engagement with the local community will also be required."

Following the review, the council has begun to have preliminary discussions with library staff about what the changes, if implemented, could mean for them. Coun Moore said: "It is our policy to engage with staff at the earliest opportunity on issues that may affect them. For this reason library managers have had some initial discussions with staff."

"In the event of any change to how library services are delivered, we will work very hard to ensure that any impact on staff is minimal," he added.

## Volunteering opportunity at Park Prison

**THE Independent Monitoring board (IMB) is recruiting members at HMP YOI Parc, Bridgend, to help monitor the "fair, reasonable and decent treatment of prisoners".**

Members of the are the eyes and ears of Ministers and monitor day-to-day life in prison to ensure standards of care.

John Davies, Chair of the IMB at HMP YOI Parc, said: "Because of the expansion at HMP YOI Parc we are seeking to appoint a number of new members to the board. The role involves visiting the prison and checking that the correct policies and procedures laid down by government are being followed."

"We are entirely independent of the prison service and G4S which runs the HMP

YOI Parc, and have a statutory duty to report our observations or any concerns we might have to the Secretary of State for Justice."

"We are from a wide range of backgrounds and you do not need any special qualifications or experience as we will provide all necessary training and support."

You need to be enthusiastic, open minded, possess effective communication skills and have the ability to exercise sound, objective judgment."

HMP YOI Parc in Bridgend, is a Male Category B prison which has a section for youth offenders. It is currently undergoing an expansion programme and will have the capacity to hold over 1500 prisoners.

Visit [www.justice.gov.uk/about/imb](http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/imb) to find out how being an IMB Member can benefit you.

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# CONTRARY TO CLAIMS, COUNCIL HAS NOT BEEN DRAGGED KICKING AND SCREAMING

**I CANNOT begin this month without confirming that, at long last, contracts between the Vale Council, the Welsh Government and the Waterfront Housing Consortium have finally been signed.**

Regrettably, I am not surprised that other political parties have claimed credit, when they actually had no involvement.

I have confirmed many times that the second road to the Island would be built as soon as possible, and that the legal detail needed lengthy negotiations to achieve it and also to protect Vale taxpayers' money.

No-one has forced us "kicking and screaming" to get it done. I want to make it clear that without the hard work of Vale officers, it would not have been achieved, albeit on the last minute on March 31.

I am also happy that a recent report on the Vale Council's waste management confirms that services have improved during 2012/13. The cost of providing the household waste service has reduced and is the third lowest in Wales, on a per household basis.

I would like to thank the Vale team for their efforts, which are much appreciated by everyone.

## Assembly visitors

**WE take every opportunity to support and to promote the Vale and since writing my last column, we have welcomed a plethora of Welsh Government Ministers.**

We have met with Jane Hutt AM, our directly-elected Assembly Member and Finance Minister, several times and Jane has accompanied me and several of my cabinet colleagues, visiting various locations in the Vale.

Carl Sergeant AM, Minister for Housing and Regeneration, has visited on two occasions, initially looking at the new development at the old magistrates court, which incorporates social housing within the site.

Carl also visited a private house that had been empty for some considerable time, which is now being renovated through the Welsh Government's empty homes strategy.

This renovation is a partnership between the council, Welsh Government, and United Welsh Housing Association using SMK, a local building contractor to carry out the work.

United Welsh will then rent it as a family home. On my visit, I was accompanied by Coun Bronwen Brooks, and we were very impressed with the concept and are looking forward to seeing the finished home, which will only take about four weeks to complete.

## Leisure talks

**LAST week, Coun Gwyn John and I had a meeting with John Griffiths AM, Minister for Culture and Sport, who visited us to find out how our extremely popular leisure centres are being operated and how our partnership with Parkwood Leisure was developing.**

After that, he discussed walking and cycling provision in the Vale, visited the Pumphouse with Coun Lis Burnett and Jane Hutt AM, to see how Welsh Government and the Vale Council working together are bringing the building back to positive use.

John Griffiths AM will be returning to the Vale to launch a new 'Love the Welsh Coast Campaign', where he will be walking part of the coastal path at Southerndown with members of various groups, council officers and Vale councillors on Saturday, May 3.

The importance of these visits can be seen, following the visit of Edwina Hart, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, who, since her visit to hear about the Vale's Greenlinks service, has announced that the Vale of Glamorgan is to be one of two pilot projects funded by the Welsh Government to explore new ways of delivering public transport services.

Last week, I met with Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Education and Skills and discussed various issues. Later Huw, Coun Chris Elmore, Jane Hutt AM and I met with the recently elected youth cabinet, along with other members of the Vale youth forum and forum trustees.

They greeted him with enthusiasm and grilled him in depth about several topical education issues. I know he was impressed and the young members should be congratulated for their efforts.

Actually, the new youth forum had quite a busy afternoon. Earlier that day the youth cabinet also quizzed Coun Elmore and me on various issues, while also answering questions from Peter Collins a local reporter.

## Youth role

**ON the subject of the youth cabinet, I would like to thank all the young people who have contributed to the new initiative in forming a youth cabinet to work with Vale cabinet members.**

Elections to the youth cabinet took place recently with members of the Vale's youth forum electing the seven successful candidates and I had the honour of announcing the results on Monday, March 31.

I would like to congratulate the youth forum members for their work in electing the youth cabinet, which I understand to be the only one in Wales.

The members of the first Vale youth cabinet are: Tom Chandler, Emily Peters, Jessica Peters, Ellis Rosser, Candy Srinivas, Emme Srinivas and Niclas Want. They represent all parts of the Vale and are at different stages of their education.

They have already shown themselves to be adept and very committed. Once they have settled into the youth cabinet role, they will be electing a youth mayor during Local Democracy Week.

I would like to put on record my thanks to the staff of the Vale's youth service who have enabled our commitment to come to fruition.

More importantly, I would like to thank all the young people who have given up so much of their time and effort into supporting this project.

Whether or not they were successful in becoming a youth cabinet member does not matter. Their voice will still be heard through their representatives and I know they have all gained experience from their efforts. I have certainly enjoyed meeting with them and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

It was good to catch up with the dedicated staff and presenters at Bro Radio's fifth birthday party in the Dolphin Bar on the Island. It's hard to believe that the majority of people who work at the station are volunteers as they do a tremendous job.

I wish Bro Radio continued success, along with their partner organisation, Digital Media Enterprise at Barry YMCA. They are a credit to the town and I congratulate them on their professionalism and commitment. Here's to another five years and beyond.

I was also recently invited to speak to the Barry

## VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun  
**NEIL MOORE**  
Leader of the  
Vale of  
Glamorgan  
Council

Men's Forum, which I enjoyed and where I was asked some very pertinent questions, which I was happy to answer and at the same time put some false rumours to bed.

## No library closures

**TALKING of false rumours, I would like clarify the current situation in relation to the Vale's libraries and to rebut any rumours that the council has decided to close libraries, or has given library staff redundancy notices.**

We have been carrying out an in-depth review of libraries and that review might mean some changes to the way services are delivered, but we do not intend to close any libraries.

All the suggestions in the review still have to be consulted upon and that review will be openly discussed by cabinet on April 28.

Can I suggest that anyone interested should read the full report and comment on it in due course and not listen to rumour? If anyone has any additional questions, please get in touch with me or my cabinet colleagues.

Finally, I couldn't end my column without paying tribute to the success of Barry Town Football Club and their promotion to the second division, another example of the passion and commitment of the club and of local people.

I should also congratulate Llantwit Major Rugby Club on reaching the final of the SWALEC Bowl Competition. Good luck when they meet CRC Caerdydd in the final.

Well done all, the sky is the limit!

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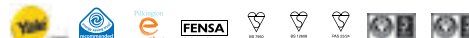
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# Out and About with The GEM

## Amazing Spiderman 2 FLAWED BUT FUN!

**THE Amazing Spiderman 2** is a lesson in cinema commercialism if there ever was one, being the fifth film in 14 years about the arachnid-empowered superhero.

Director Sam Raimi made three with Tobey Maguire as his lead and now there are two from Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*, 2009) and the English actor Andrew Garfield – and there are at least another two planned; and so you have to admire the ingenious ways that Sony-Columbia-Marvel have found to continually tell us stories we've been told countless times before.

Two of the most successful genres in cinema at the moment are the superhero and the young adult – and the appeal of Spiderman is that he is possessed of both and remains perhaps the most 'comic book' of them all.

It is the only young-person superhero franchise, and it is that adolescence that allows the leads to energetically explore such themes as young love, youthful exuberance and questionable judgement.

Of course, teenage dilemmas come with parental issues and in this chapter, Peter Parker (Spiderman's true identity, if you didn't know) is plagued by questions about his own parents, who, it seems abandoned him in childhood – and

### FILM REVIEW by ROBERT FISHER

also by the promise he was forced to make to the father of his love-interest Gwen Stacy, played by Emma Stone before he died – who warned Peter to stay away from his daughter.

And further to that is Harry Osborn, played marvelously by Dane De Haan (*Chronicle*, 2012), Peter's childhood friend, who having gone away to boarding school returns to New York just in time to be handed a poisoned chalice by his dying father.

Andrew Garfield's Spiderman (whose gangly adolescence bears a passing similarity to Andy Murray), may well be out and about in the world, but he still has one foot in school; and in this way he is still very much an adolescent dealing with adult problems.

Parker breaks up with Gwen, who prepares to head off for a new life in England.

He then has to deal with a brace of super villains in De Haan's Green Goblin and Jamie Foxx's Max Dillon/Electro, neither of whom really want to be criminals, but inadvertently turn to evil as a last resort, perhaps in a perfect world they might even have been friends with Spidey.

Parker receives Gwen's message indicating her intention to move to England, and manages to catch her just in time, professes his love for her, and they agree to go to England together – but in tragic irony, he leaves her to go and fight Electro.

As a theme-park ride, Spiderman does deliver, but the strongest scenes in the film are those between Garfield and Stone and then Garfield and DeHaan, where they bond over being children of fathers who sacrificed family for their work.

Andrew Garfield's Peter Parker has charm and there is a genuine romantic spark between him and Emma Stone, who is sharp, clever and cute. Without her, this film would clunk rather than sparkle.

*The film is far from being perfect, it may have dodgy logic and there may be a few too many jokes, but it remains fun cinema, satisfying and with an emotive twist in the tail.*

### IN BRIEF

**CARDIFF** Motorcycle Club, which meets at the Red Lion Public House, Bonvilston, on the last Saturday of every month at 2pm, is holding a show at Whitechurch High School, Cardiff, on Sunday, May 11.

### Rhooose bingo

THE management committee at Rhooose Community Hall is holding another of its Saturday bingo afternoons at the hall in Stewart Road this Saturday, April 26 at 2pm.

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### Free family cinema

THERE will be a free showing for residents, of the movie *Rise of the Guardians* on Friday, May 2, from 6pm-8pm at Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way

The venue has a widescreen projector, surround sound and cheap sweets are also on sale. For more information, contact Barry Communities First on 01446 709432.

### Through the glass darkly

GLASS Darkly, a powerful glass exhibition reflecting a young artist's experience of living with Multiple Sclerosis, is currently being staged in Canton.

Rosa Trowbridge-Hamilton is a young glass artist who contracted Multiple Sclerosis aged just 16. The show is at Oriel Canfas Gallery in Canton, Cardiff until May 17.



Our GEM Facebook winner for April 17 is:

**Melissa Williams**

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was: **JOHN MORGAN**

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

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26/4/2014	Saturday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50	
06/5/2014	Tuesday	Abergavenny Market	£9.95	£9.50	
10/5/2014	Saturday	Malvern Spring Gardening Show (Coach Only)	£11.50	£10.50	
17/5/2014	Saturday	London Flyer, Sights or London Show (Coach Only)	£15.50	£15.00	
24/5/2014	Saturday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00	
26/5/2014	Monday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00	
07/6/2014	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon	£12.95	£11.95	
13/6/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50	Friday 13th June & 17th October 2014. Cotswolds, 4 days Friday to Monday. Adults £171.50.
14/6/2014	Saturday	Oxford City Centre	£14.00	£13.50	
21/6/2014	Saturday	Ross on Wye 'Labels' & Gloucester Quays	£11.50	£10.50	
28/6/2014	Saturday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95	Friday 18th July 2014. Cheshire, 4 days Friday to Monday. Adults £185.
05/7/2014	Saturday	Street Village & Weston Super Mare	£12.50	£11.50	
12/7/2014	Saturday	Worcester	£13.75	£13.00	
18/7/2014	Friday	Cheshire, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£185.00	£185.00	Friday 27th July 2014. Lincoln, 4 days Friday to Monday. Adults £159.50.
19/7/2014	Saturday	Haverfordwest & St Davids City	£14.00	£13.50	
23/7/2014	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show, Coach Only	£12.00	£11.50	
25/7/2014	Friday	Lincoln, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£159.50	£159.50	Monday 11th August 2014. Norwich 5 days Monday to Friday. Adults £264.
11/8/2014	Monday	Norwich & Sandringham, 5 Day Holiday, 4*	£264.00	£264.00	
01/9/2014	Monday	Cork Ireland, 5 Day Holiday, 4* Hotel	£355.00	£355.00	Monday 1st September 2014. Cork, Ireland, 5 days Monday to Friday. Adults £355.
3/10/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50	

Additional Summer, Autumn & Winter dates will be added to our full 2014 programme. Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential. Local pickups throughout South Wales.

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# 'Despite the pain, it was worth every drop of sweat and every tear'

## Daniel's journey to Africa on 'Courage to make a Difference Kilimanjaro climb'

A campaigner for health services in Africa completed the challenge of a lifetime by taking part in a charity climb of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Daniel Nadzo is well known in Barry and Bridgend for his work for River Africa, a charity which seeks to improve the hospital provision for mums and babies in his native Zimbabwe.

Last year, he told The GEM about his dream of climbing the highest peak on the continent of Africa for a cause close to his heart.

He told The GEM: "On Tuesday, March 18, I left my family and set off on an exhilarating adventure to trek up Mount Kilimanjaro and touch 'the roof of Africa' to raise funds to start a chicken project in Zimbabwe for the charity River Africa.

"The funds raised from the chicken project will be used to build a mother and baby clinic in a hard to reach area of Zimbabwe."

At 19,341 feet, Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest 'free-standing' peak in the world. It is located in Tanzania and is composed of three volcanic cones: Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira. In popular culture, it was immortalised in Ernest Hemingway's short story 'The Snows of Kilimanjaro'. In fact, Daniel experienced those 'snows' on his push for the summit.

Daniel took a six hour flight from Heathrow Airport to Doha; a second five hour flight on to Dar es Salaam, and then a one-hour flight to Kilimanjaro Airport.

Daniel said: "The friendly face of my 'Shah Tours' representative waiting for me with a vehicle to take me to Mountain Inn was very welcome.

"The sight of Kilimanjaro's magnificent peak, which appeared to float above the clouds in front of me, took my breath away as we drove to Mountain Inn. I have climbed it before but no matter how many times you see it, the effect is the same."

Daniel spent three days at Mountain Inn acclimatising and recovering from the jet lag.

"Mount Kilimanjaro soared up into the sky in the distance, providing inspiration and intimidation in

by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE: Breakfast – and one of Africa's most arresting views.

equal measure!"

On the fourth day Daniel and the members of his party set off to conquer the legendary peak.

"Following a hearty breakfast we jumped into a 4x4. The excitement was palpable as we started our drive to Machame Gate to begin the climb.

"Cruising along the road I could see Kilimanjaro from my window and it looked magnificent in the distance.

"It became apparent to us that there was more snow up on the peak than there had been the previous day. At Machame Gate, I went to register our climb with the rangers, then we set off.

"We ambled along the track up into the rain forest, and came upon some blue monkeys within a few metres of our trek. They didn't appear to be too bothered by our presence.

"A few hundred metres into the trail the path became much steeper, snaking up through the green forest, up past hanging tendrils and huge ferns."

Above the 2,200 metre point, the party paused to get their breath. For some people, the difficulty of a



ABOVE: Daniel Nadzo with his fellow Kilimanjaro climbers.

trek at altitude was beginning to set in.

"I reminded them to take it slow – 'pole pole' in Swahili. We trekked for five hours, stopping for a packed lunch with an amazing view.

"We arrived at our camp to find that our ever competent porters had already set up camp and were in the process of preparing our evening meal.

"In the wake of our meal we all crawled exhausted into our two man tents for a fitful night's sleep."

### SILENCE AND SNOW

The daily routine of a long, upward march was repeated every day for five days. The difference for the walkers was that every step became more laboured as they ascended higher altitudes and fought every step of the way.

"On the penultimate day, we hiked for just over eight hours from Barranco to Barafu camp and were in the process of preparing our evening meal.

"We drank tea and biscuits before we set off. "Snow began to fall in the silence of the night as we trudged slowly up the dark track.

"The darkness hugged the skyline ahead, except for odd clusters of snaking lights from other groups silently navigating their way to Uhuru Peak."

For Daniel and his companions, it was the most agonising part of the climb.

"I occasionally looked back to encourage people behind me who were suffering and struggling to breathe. Some were gasping for air with every step. We endured this for six to seven hours."

But having come so far, Daniel was determined to reach his final goal.

"I kept motivated by reminding myself of the reasons why I had embarked upon this journey.

"I thought of the sick wife in Zimbabwe whose husband has to take her to the rural clinic in a wheelbarrow on a four hour walk.

"I thought of the suffering infants and expectant mothers that will be supported by River Africa, and gritted my teeth and kept moving.

"We paused briefly to take stock of everyone's health. A few people did not feel well, so the decision was made to split the group and send those that did not feel well back down accompanied by the deputy guide and two porters.

"The rest of us ploughed onward and upward. Hours passed as we hiked up in a stupor-like state.

"The local head-guide quietly muttered something and pointed to a shining light up ahead. It was Stella Point, a key landmark in our ascent.

"I informed other members of the group that we were now very near to the summit and it would take us a further 50 to 60 minutes to get there."

The moment the party reached the summit was a never to be forgotten moment.

Daniel explained: "The rising sun cast a fiery orange glow enveloping the snow-capped mountain with its golden rays. The faint golden light seemed to bleed across the horizon.

"We stopped to appreciate the view. From that point we could see awe-inspiring white glaciers gleaming to the east and the snowy crater to the west.

"Most of the people in the group had never seen such an enchanting site and started to feel emotional.

"Some had tears running down their faces. Hugs and kisses were exchanged as people shared this enthralling moment of a lifetime.

"I plan to return later



ABOVE: Mount Kilimanjaro – immortalised in African folklore and one of the continent's unforgettable sights.

this year with a small group to attempt to conquer Kilimanjaro a second time and touch the 'roof of Africa' once more.

"Although we had about eight more hours to descend down to Mweka camp for our last night on the mountain, the sense of elation was clear on everyone's faces.

"Everyone expressed the opinion that despite the pain and effort it was worth every drop of sweat, every effort and every tear."

Daniel raised £6,105 for River Africa. If you want to support him, go to: [www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Nadzo](http://www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Nadzo)

If you are interested in Climbing Kilimanjaro contact River Africa at [kilimanjaro@riverafrica.org](mailto:kilimanjaro@riverafrica.org); for more information go to: [www.riverafrica.org](http://www.riverafrica.org)

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Again, who would have thought that a Government minister would say that if that pensioner chose to spend that cash on a Lamborghini, it would be quite all right with him?

It is pretty unlikely that any local legal or financial consultant here in the Vale would offer the Lamborghini option to a client.

What Vale residents can look forward to here is an expert guide through the myriad regulations that cover legal, financial, rental, and care matters.

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## The rise of guarantor agreements: Will it mean guaranteed rent or guaranteed problems?

**A**T Newbold Solicitors, we are noticing an increase in the use of guarantor agreements to provide security and a guarantee for landlords when entering into tenancy agreements with new or even existing tenants.

They are becoming particularly common where tenants are in receipt of a low or fixed income, such as part time employment or state benefits.

A guarantor agreement can be attractive to both the landlord and the tenant; the tenant provides extra security to the landlord and may be a suitable tenant as a result.

For the landlord, there is the reassurance that if the tenants default or falls short on their rent, any remaining sums can be sought from a reliable source.

We have seen landlords and tenants

who have had problems in either enforcing these agreements, or tenants whose guarantors refuse to pay the rent that is owed. We have even seen guarantors themselves who appear to be tied in indefinitely to an agreement that they want to be released from.

These types of agreements should be carefully considered and drafted. We have seen many agreements that have not been correctly witnessed, guarantors who are in receipt of low incomes and cannot afford to provide a guarantee, and agreements that only provide liability for rent and not damage or unpaid utilities and agreements for an unspecified term.

Agreements can often be useless and unenforceable as a result.

As landlord and tenant experts, at Newbold Solicitors we can advise any party in an agreement; we can check a document's validity, negotiate with

landlords or tenants to resolve any short term problems and provide practical long term advice to avoid problems from rearing in the future.

If you are a tenant who is experiencing difficulties in paying rent and your guarantor refuses to pay your shortfall, a landlord who needs enforce an agreement against a guarantor, or a guarantor who wishes to withdraw from an agreement, contact our dedicated housing department on 0330 123 11 31.

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# A GARDENER'S DREAM AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW IN CARDIFF

THE Royal Horticultural Show took place in Cardiff earlier this month.

It was an opportunity for lovers of gardening to indulge their passion with wonderful displays of plants, flowers and garden arrangements.

Our photographer, Glyn Evans, captured a number of people from the Vale and Bridgend area, who had made the short journey into the capital to learn a little more about the latest innovations and creations in the world of horticulture.

As you can see, interest in mother nature spans the generations!

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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# GEM SPECIAL REPORT: AN ALARMING INCREASE IN THE USE OF FOODBANKS



A **GEM** special report By CAROLINE SARLL



**SOAP or soup. That was the choice facing an actress friend of mine many years ago. From a 'good' background, but living in prohibitively expensive London while struggling to make her name, she was pregnant with her first child – and yet close to hitting rock bottom.**

Managing to liberate a piece of soap from a public loo, she was eventually able to afford a small tin of soup-and staved off hunger for one more night for her and her growing baby.

The memory of this tale resonates with alarming clarity today, as we, as a nation, face the worst food crisis in decades.

Thousands of people in Wales and across the UK are turning, in growing numbers, to Food Banks, which are now springing up all over Britain.

In Wales, there are currently 36, covering approximately 80 towns and cities. In the last 18 months alone, 14 new banks have opened across Wales.

Last week's figures from the Trussell Trust, which runs most of the 422 banks nationwide, saw a tripling of those using their service nationwide: 346,992 in 2012-2013, and a staggering 913,138 in 2013-2014. Here in Wales, 79,049 visited foodbanks in the last year, an increase of 120 per cent. Shocking. And deeply worrying.

With low wages, lack of employment, benefits delays and rising food and energy costs, you or I could so easily be the next person affected.

It is a sobering thought. To eat or to heat? Or,

without the help of a Food Bank, possibly neither? For thousands (close to 1 million in Britain), forget swallowing a nourishing meal, made from fresh ingredients, personally purchased.

It's a case of swallowing pride and dignity instead, walking into a Food Bank and taking what is offered from a list of non-perishable foods. Handout Heaven it certainly isn't.

This growing frontline, emergency-food service has been much maligned since the first bank was opened in a Salisbury garden shed and garage in 2000, with one leading politician claiming recently that users were largely those who "were not best able to manage their finances".

Other critics have referred to the banks as a "sticking plaster solution" – temporary in nature (the banks supply an emergency three-day food supply to clients) and thus ill-equipped to deal with the root causes of the poverty plight.

Claims have also been made that some visitors are unscrupulously selling on the free food. With such negativity clouding the excellent work of what many clients deem 'lifesavers', I recently visited two food banks – Noltion Street in Bridgend and the Coastlands Church in Barry – to try to get beneath the political posturing and harsh assessments. What is life really like for Food Bank users in our area?

Within minutes of entering the Noltion Street branch, retired policeman, volunteer and trustee John Chapman debunked one of the major myths: "Class doesn't come in to it. I've seen people coming in and just by looking at their manner and dress and the way they speak, you can tell they are middle class. This food crisis doesn't discriminate. It could affect any one of us".

John works alongside five other trustees and around 30 volunteers, all from different walks of life. I met a retired primary schoolteacher and a young woman with a troubled background, who wanted "to give something back". The Trussell Trust is a

Christian organisation and, as with most of the Food Banks, the Bridgend one – the second busiest in Wales, with 8,721 visitors last year – began in the nearby church. The Bridgend volunteers were unequivocal: "This work is very rewarding".

In John's words: "Wearing my Christian hat, I try and think of how Jesus and his disciples would have acted seeing people going hungry on their doorstep. They wouldn't have turned the other cheek".

Why does he think so many are in this position? "I don't dwell too much on why. It's not our role to consider the political agenda, for example, of foreign aid versus domestic aid and whether the Government should be doing more. I just get on with my job here of helping as many as we can. In 2012 we helped 1,648.

"In 2013, 4,353. This week's figures, 8,721 indicate that the numbers have nearly doubled again. We have more visitors than the Cardiff foodbanks (8,638 in the last year) and yet are a much smaller population".

**'Not scroungers'** THE clients I met confirmed John's view and that of the Trussell Trust: visitors to the banks are "absolutely not scroungers" and "very rarely the homeless". In fact, only 4 per cent nationwide come into the latter category.

Last year, 30 per cent of visitors nationwide were referred due to benefit delays; 18 per cent due to low income and 15 per cent due to benefit changes.

Referrals come from a wide range of organisations such as CAB, job centres, social work teams and medical professionals. The food donated and offered is all non-perishable; tins of soup and baked beans, dried milk, pasta or rice, tea or coffee and breakfast cereals.

Last year, 3,400 tonnes of such food was donated nationally, with 90 per cent coming from the public. Other sources include supermarkets, other charities and, a major source for all



ABOVE: John Chapman and his team, who offer a 'life-saving service' for the Bridgend community.

banks, local churches.

Tony Graham, manager of the Wales Food Bank Network, stresses the importance and generosity of local communities in keeping the service going: "We are so grateful to the communities for their support. We couldn't manage without them".

But there is an ambivalence in Tony's assessment, echoed by many across the country: "We are both glad and sad about the current predicament. Glad, of course, that we continue to garner so much support and to receive vital donations, but sad because of the continuing rise in numbers".

Tony, like John, is also keen to talk demographics: "So many of our clients are from the working poor – in jobs, but their wages are static and cannot keep up with the rise in food and fuel prices. The people we see are those who, historically, have been coping. This crippling recession has turned many into borderline hunger cases – and has tipped thousands over the edge".

Keen to negate the 'free for all' image, Tony stresses: "We are not soup kitchens. The banks are for emergency aid. You can't just turn up. People must have a referral and a voucher. I think that lends us more credibility in a way".

Jan and 'Mike', a young couple from Nantmool, with a then nine week old baby, were collecting their three-day supply for the second time in Bridgend (clients have to have a voucher to receive the food and can, in theory, only use the service three times).

Among the longlife fruit juice, jars and tins was, for Jan, an indispensable item and unequivocal lifesaver: formula milk for her baby son.

## Benefit delays

**"WE are here due to benefit delays. We both have major health issues, which mean we**

**can't work. I have epilepsy and Mike is my constant carer. Our council house is riddled with black mould and we have had to make the front room into a bedroom for the baby and put him outside as much as we can, even when it's cold. And he's so tiny – he was born six weeks premature.**

"Drug users leave needles in our drive. Yes, we have a roof over our heads, but it's making us ill. This food really is a lifeline for us at the moment".

Mike appeared pale and sickly, as he fed his son in his arms. His mother-in-law, who can only see her grandson if she meets Mike and Jan at the Food Bank, as none of them can afford a bus fare, cleans toilets for a living: "I have always worked and paid my way. But life is so hard at the moment. My wages are so low". And then, as a surprisingly optimistic afterthought, she adds: "But seeing what my son and family are going through makes me realise how lucky I am".

Like Jan and Mike, another young couple, 'Simon' and 'Jo' found it "incredibly difficult" to turn up at the Bridgend Food Bank. The cap-in-hand, face-to-face procedure is clearly more ignominious than a benefit payment via a bank. But for all visitors, it is clearly Hobson's choice.

"You do feel humiliated," says Jo, two carrier bags of tins and jars lying next to her. "But it's our only choice. We both have mental health problems and were referred here by our social workers. Our benefits are late due to a postal error."

Simon adds: "I used to have my own building business. I've always worked. But then I fell ill and got behind with things and lost my van. You can't run a building business without transport – and there's no way I can afford another van at the moment. It's a vicious circle".

While the clients collect their supplies, the

friendly volunteers chat to them, offering tea and biscuits – and an invaluable listening ear. Simon and Jo refuse the offer of biscuits. I found that touching and, for me in my undeniably middle class bubble, instructive.

These are not life's freeloaders. They are human beings who've been dealt a bad hand. Those of us in our warm, comfortable homes should not look on complacently.

## Vale Food Bank

At the Vale Food Bank in Barry, established in 2011 by Sue Lloyd-Selby, pastoral care is often administered by the pastor of the church himself. Mike Holmes works regularly as a volunteer alongside 50 or so others and both he and Sue stress the importance of 'signposting' clients in various directions, so that they can access further help.

**In despair** "PEOPLE invariably arrive in distress and despair," observes Sue. "They always begin by saying how embarrassed they are to be here. We try and take that stigma away and gently find out what brought them here, something other agencies may not have the time to do".

Sue, who juggles her daytime job with many hours at the Food Banks (a second one opened in Barry in February and there are outlets in Dinas Powys and Llantwit Major), is angry about the ongoing food crisis: "We are the seventh wealthiest nation in the world, yet we have people experiencing genuine hunger. It's a disgrace. Rising costs and the welfare system are pushing people into poverty".

"We can and must raise these issues with politicians – but we must also help people at grassroots level. There's a perception that the Vale in general is an affluent area, but we have helped 6,600 people in the last two years. Thousands of those are children."

"Other affluent areas in



Public donations account for 90 per cent of Food Bank supplies.



Wales are opening banks – the most recent is Monmouth. And yes, we have had the occasional person in from Cowbridge".

The Coastlands centre offers books and clothing, as well as food. Sue is keen to emphasise that, in some cases, ongoing help is a necessity. "If people continue to struggle after they've used their three vouchers, we don't just abandon them. There are mechanisms and compassion in place. And if someone does turn up without one, we always sit with them and offer them a cup of tea and biscuits, to try and sort things out".

One of the most shocking realisations for Food Bank workers nationwide is that clients are unable to accept some items: "We have learned to ask people whether they have a cooker. Many don't, nor a microwave. We are devising meal plans using only a kettle. That's how desperate some people are. We've occasionally been criticised for giving pet food, but we've heard of people who will open a tin of tuna and give it to their beloved pet."

"From our experience, parents will feed the children first, then the animals. They always come last".

Does Sue think she and her volunteers can solve the hunger problem? "No, of course not. There should be more help from the welfare system. But there's not. I see our work as similar to First Aid. Ambulance staff can't prevent the accidents, but that doesn't stop them from helping, does it?"

In the Coastlands

centre, a welcoming environment with sofas and comfy chairs and a constant supply of tea from the volunteers, I sat and chatted to Stephan, aged 38. Having been helped by the Food Bank, he now works there as a volunteer and brings his partner and two young children with him.

Endearingly, while I talked to Stephan, his partner sat with their son reading one of the many books available. Stephan, a softly spoken, articulate young man with a gentle nature, was clearly distressed at having had to use the service. I wondered what had led him there.

"I was with the MoD for six years. Then I was invalided out. I have struggled to find work since then." He lowered his gaze. "Iraq?" He nodded. "I was right next to a blast and have lost the sight in one eye. I have post traumatic stress disorder. There has been a delay in processing my benefits claim. I don't get anything from the MoD."

"At the moment, we are living on £26 a week plus our child benefit of £34. We obviously can't afford clothes for the children. I don't know what we would have done without this help."

"I have regular blackouts and need my partner with me. I have tried looking for jobs, but have been turned down for many because of my health problems. But I'm still looking".

For Stephan, giving back to the Food Bank, gives him back some dignity and pride.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23.)



## GEM SPECIAL REPORT: Food Bank use has tripled

(Continued from page 22).

I leave the Barry centre, feeling incredibly lucky-and deeply grateful. And yes, if I'm honest, almost a tad uncomfortable with my own relatively affluent lifestyle, even if I do work incredibly hard.

As a freelancer, with my own health issues, I feel acutely aware that if my husband did not have a good job, we too, could be part of the cap-in-hand contingent.

My 17-year-old daughter had accompanied me on the Vale visit. She asked me what I felt about the whole initiative. The truth is, I am in awe of the charitable nature of our communities. In awe of the tireless volunteers. In awe of the stoicism of those I met.

But, like many before me, I have to question whether this growing venture, despite being a vital first aid

intervention, is the best long-term solution. I simply don't know.

On the way home, I think of the criminal food waste in the UK. Of the 30,000 tons of food that Britain's leading supermarket alone threw away in the first six months of last year. Of the critics who question why some Food Bank users are overweight.

Of their observations that filling these people with tins and jars is compounding the country's growing obesity problem. Of the wider debate surrounding the poor in the UK – do we really let people starve like those at death's door in developing countries?

One thing I do know – discourse means nothing when you're faced with a soup or soup situation. I'm 'hungry' after a day of writing this piece, having forgotten to eat lunch. I go to our full-of-fresh-food fridge and dive in. Instant relief



**ABOVE: Mike Holmes stresses the importance of 'signposting' for help.**

from that empty, gnawing sensation. Next time I go shopping, I vow to think twice before sailing past the

Food Bank donation bins, now at the entrance of nearly all supermarkets.

Will you?

## Pupils build their case!

**THE former Vale Magistrates Courts site at Barry was the setting for a different type of interrogation when St Helens Primary School pupils interviewed construction staff about their jobs.**

This was the second occasion that year-5 pupils had visited the

site currently being developed by Jehu Project Services Limited on behalf of Newydd Housing Association.

As part of their literacy project, the pupils prepared questions beforehand and then in small groups put questions to building workers from Jehu and the companies working with them.

## An orchestra at her fingertips!

**NFU Ladies had their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 15 and were entertained by Penny Weedon on the keyboard.**

The ladies listened to old and new melodies, it was a relaxing and enjoyable evening.

Penny told how she is

involved with the RNIB Linda Williams gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the ladies.

Sheila Sargent called to thank the ladies for the cheque donated to the Motor Neuron Disease charity.

The May trip is on Wednesday, May 14; call Ann on 01446 760528 for details.

## Garden open

**SLADE, Southerndown, Glamorgan, CF32 0RP is the first of the gardens to open locally as part of the National Gardens Scheme.**

Set in eight acres, Slade garden is an unexpected gem with masses of spring flowers. The terraced lawns, mature specimen trees, living willow arbours, rose and clematis pergola, orchard and herbaceous borders, create a very natural garden that also has extensive views over the Bristol Channel.

It will be open on April 26, 27 and on June 7, 8 (2 – 6). Entry £4. Visitors also

welcome by appointment April to July.

Over £27 million has been donated to charity in the last 15 years by the National Gardens Scheme, and 600 new gardens are included in the 2014 edition of The Yellow Book.

Trustees of the Scheme have announced the distribution of £2.5 million to its beneficiary charities as a result of garden openings in 2013. They include Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care, who each receive £500,000.

## Maria and Nicola are greeted by Big Ben's chimes, after amazing 125-mile canoe race!

**DOUBLE world record holder MARIA LEIJERSTAM from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.**

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun...

**WHILST I expect most of you were enjoying a wonderful Easter bank holiday with friends and family, I was out doing something crazy again – this time, though, it was on water.**

On Saturday morning at 10.30am, I set off on the Devices to Westminster International canoe race which was a 125-mile

race along the Kennet and Avon canal and the River Thames. The race finished outside of the Houses of Parliament and we were welcomed by the chimes of Big Ben.

I was competing with a friend of mine, Nicola Mcleod, in a K2 racing boat which by all accounts is about as unstable as it gets and after 27 hours of non-stop racing and 77 portages, where we had to get out of the boat and run carrying the boat around the many locks on the canal, it was a race about stamina and determination.

During the last three hours of the race, the tide on the River Thames had turned and hence on top of fighting, tiredness, strains and injuries, we were now also fighting the tide, which was becoming closer to a losing battle by the minute as the tide strength gradually increased against our favour. The six boats ahead of us, at this stage, all capsized in the rough conditions but with grit

and determination we made it to the finish and came fourth female pair.

This week, I challenge you to think about a time when you gave up on something because you thought you couldn't do it, but in retrospect with a little extra determination you would have made it. So next time you head out on a run or cycle or an adventure of any kind, think about whether you could actually do a little bit more.

Set yourself the challenge and let us know how you got on, log onto [www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure](http://www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure) for full details.

Our bodies are incredible machines that provided we feed, rest and water them well, they are capable of almost anything.

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.

**FOOTNOTE:** This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns



**ABOVE: Maria Leijerstam**

about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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## On the Easter nature trail – to boost Arthritis UK

**ON Saturday, April 19, an Easter Egg Hunt was held from 12 noon on the nature trail at Cottrell Park Golf Resort.**

Cardiff and Vale branch of Arthritis Research UK hosted the event – to raise funds for the 15,000 young children in the UK who have Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis.

The hunt was opened by the Easter Bunny and prizes were given for the largest individual egg collected, the smallest individual egg found and the most eggs in the colour purple collected.

Other fundraising activities included Easter egg decorating, Easter face painting and tattoos, Easter cupcake sales, raffle and more.

A total of £200 was raised, which will help Arthritis Research UK to take the pain away from young children with arthritis, enabling them to remain active, doing the things they love.

Anne-Marie Jones



## Plan for town jazz festival

**A BARRY councillor is aiming to organise a jazz festival in the town next year and is appealing for help.**

Coun Richard Bertin, who represents the town's Court ward, is looking for people to join an organising committee and for local companies to become sponsors.

He can be contacted on 07973-153987 or by email at [rjbartin@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:rjbartin@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

## Saddle up for a charity bike ride!

**THE 33rd 'On Your Bike for Barnardo's' will take place on Sunday, May 18 to raise funds for the children's charity.**

Rachel Madge, event organiser, said: "By joining the Bike Ride and raising funds for Barnardo's Cymru, you can show that you too believe in children and want to give them the opportunities to succeed in life, no matter who they are or what they have been through."

The bike ride is a 38-mile route through the Vale of Glamorgan, including Wick, St Bride's Major, Llantwit Major and Rhosce.

Entry fees will be £12.50 per cyclist and it starts at 8am from the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff.

To find out more about the bike ride, log on now to [www.barnardos.org.uk/onyourbike](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/onyourbike) or call 02920 436236 or email [events@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:events@barnardos.org.uk).





## £2,773 a very good deal for Ty Hafan!

**TY HAFAN** has received £2,773.83 raised by staff and customers at Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road, Cardiff, last year.

Rebecca Chick, business and community fundraiser at the Sully hospice, said: "At the start of 2013, Wessex Garages chose us as its charity of the year. We would like say a huge 'thank you' to everyone at the dealership who helped raise such a fantastic amount during the past year."

"The support Wessex Garages has given us during 2013 has been very much appreciated. We offer comfort, care and support for life-limited

children and young people in Wales. We are also dedicated to improving the quality of life for the whole family free of charge."

Ty Hafan was established in 1999. It has helped nearly 600 families who live the reality that their children with life-limiting conditions may not reach the age of 18.

Gareth Howells, general manager at Wessex Garages said: "Our most popular event was our fundraising evening with the Cardiff Blues, during which £1,400 was raised. Other events included a challenge to spend 24 hours in a car, coffee mornings, competitions, fancy dress days and clothes donations."

**ABOVE;** The team at Wessex Garages with the Cardiff Blues players at the Night in with the Blues' fundraising event.



**ABOVE:** Fleet sales manager at Wessex Garages, Justin Belle and (right) Cardiff Blues player, Rhys Patchell present the amount raised for Ty Hafan during 2013 to the business and community fundraiser at Ty Hafan, Rebecca Chick.



**ABOVE:** Justin Belle and (right) digital sales executive, Amy Wyllie with Rebecca Chick.

## Ty Hafan lottery winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D823.**

● **£2,000:** 284451.  
● **The rollover, which now stands at £10,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 238844, 696201, 947469, 384336, 683095, 623293, 495682, 859855, 112126, 982313, 417838, 175573, 283821, 560376, 195278, 709238, 401782, 860950, 258480, 434399.

● **£5:** 278616, 464395, 493973, 291413, 373249, 794627, 247914, 281993, 471297, 922339, 337755, 193470, 194926, 687571, 610093.

263214, 247350, 508621, 364692, 950979, 417195, 485627, 207178, 862262, 214083, 479829, 868618, 216489, 623584, 101217, 577285, 250262, 386821, 617789, 384601, 703428, 486547, 156138, 376350, 804305, 655473, 875422, 228320, 622962, 128284, 402020, 337508, 257156, 145429, 910557, 605521, 112090, 197385, 204398, 192399, 644316, 131986, 516406, 351096, 001374.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

## CONCERT STAGED IN A MAGICAL SETTING

A CONCERT of exquisite violin and piano music was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience at Coed Hills Rural Art Space on Easter Sunday, followed by an Easter egg hunt for very happy children.

There was an opportunity to meet the performers and enjoy tea with

delicious home made cakes. The combination of the glorious setting, the close personal friendships that one forms there, and the sense of pure musical idealism that has been the chief aim of the concert series since it began, produces a kind of magic that is unique.

SB



**ABOVE:** Luke Adams and Damian Bamford, putting their new skills to work on the widest inglenook in Wales at St Mary Church.

## TOPSTAK SWEEPS UP NEW SKILLS

**LUKE ADAMS and Damian Bamford** from chimney and woodstove specialist, Topstak, have become registered chimney sweeps after training at the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS) headquarters in Staffordshire.

NACS was formed in 1982 as a professional trade association, promoting high standards for the sweeping, inspection and maintenance of chimneys.

Luke and Damian then cut their teeth on what is reported to be the

widest inglenook in Wales, in St Mary Church near Cowbridge.

They recently became HETAS registered installers.

"Topstak has an ongoing programme of staff training, and is grateful to Welsh Government funding to make this possible," said Topstak director, Adam Pedersen.

"In addition to our sweeping service, we can service stoves, carry out chimney smoke tests and CCTV chimney inspections to check for damage."

For further information, call 01446 771 567 [www.topstak.co.uk](http://www.topstak.co.uk).

## Wales rallies to Poppy Appeal

**FIGURES** released last week show Welsh people have dug deep to help The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal break the £1.5million mark for the fourth year in a row.

Since the 2013 Poppy Appeal launched last October, people in Wales have donated more than £1.6million to date, which will help the Legion continue providing direct welfare support and advice to the Armed Forces community. In south Wales, over £1million has been donated so far, and the money keeps coming in with five months to go until the appeal year ends in September.

"Schools, businesses and individuals across Wales took on a range of fundraising initiatives to support the appeal – in Cardiff, the Poppy Appeal was launched by Welsh rugby and British and Irish Lions captain Sam Warburton, alongside serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families," said Claire Rowcliffe, interim head of regional fundraising at the Legion.

"We are thrilled at the generosity of people in Wales. It's a great achievement to say we have broken the £1.5million target for the last four years and even more poignant this year as we commemorate 100 years since Britain entered the First World War."

"Every penny raised will make a huge difference to Service personnel, veterans and their families, from helping a young widow through an inquest to representing injured Servicemen in their appeals for compensation. We helped over 700 people in Wales last year and it's vital we keep raising money to stand shoulder to shoulder with them."

The Legion's welfare programme runs year-round and the charity spends £1.6million a week in direct welfare support. A number of fundraising initiatives run outside of the Poppy Appeal including honour walks and bike rides, challenge events and Poppy picnics.

The Legion has launched a new Freephone number for advice on 0800 802 8080. For more information on the charity, visit [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk).

## Students are off to the spa!



**ABOVE:** Debbie Searle at CAVC's Academi salon on Colcot Road.

A GROUP of spa and complementary therapies students at Cardiff and Vale College will gain experience of the world of work in a top-flight spa at the Vale Resort Hotel.

The six students will be working on a part-time basis; Vale Hotel spa operations manager Debbie Searle visited the

college to give a talk to the students and then observed them at work, finally choosing six to work at the spa.

"We are looking to take on some part time therapists while the students are still on their courses, with a view to making the arrangement a bit more permanent. They will be hired as and when they are needed," Debbie explained.



# FRF Toyota Spring Offers

# 0% APR

Representative<sup>†</sup>


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**AYGO Mode**  
**£149**  
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**01656 646646** [frftoyota.co.uk](http://frftoyota.co.uk)

Models shown are AYGO Mode 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £9,800 and Yaris Icon plus 1.0 VVT-i 3 door at £12,945. Price excludes metallic paint on AYGO at £450 and pure white paint on Yaris at £250. \*0% APR Representative and £500 Finance Deposit Allowance available on new retail orders of MY13 AYGO Mode when ordered between 1st April and 30th June 2014 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th September 2014 on a 41 month Access Toyota (PCP) plan with £1 customer deposit, £500 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT19 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. 1.0% APR Representative and £750 Finance Deposit Allowance available on new retail orders of Yaris Icon plus when ordered between 1st April and 30th June 2014 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th September 2014 on a 41 month Access Toyota (PCP) plan with £1 deposit. ^^Payment shown is based on a 41 month Access Toyota contract with £1 customer deposit, £750 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT19 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 10,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

AYGO Mode 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO2 Emissions 99g/km. Yaris Icon plus 1.0 VVT-i manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO2 Emissions 111g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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<sup>^</sup>£199 Advance Payment on Auris Touring Sports Active 1.33 manual. Models shown are AYGO Mode 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual at Nil Advance Payment, Auris Icon 1.33 manual at Nil Advance Payment, iQ 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual at Nil Advance Payment, Yaris Icon plus 1.0 VVT-i 5 door at Nil Advance Payment, Verso Active 1.6 manual at £595 Advance Payment and Auris Touring Sports Icon 1.33 at £645 Advance Payment. Subject to availability. Offer subject to change on 1st July 2014. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

AYGO Mode 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO2 Emissions 99g/km. Yaris Icon plus 1.0 VVT-i manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO2 Emissions 111g/km. Auris Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 45.6 (6.2) - 78.5 (3.6). CO2 Emissions 143g/km - 84g/km. iQ 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 64.2 (4.4). CO2 emissions 99g/km. Verso Active 1.6 6-speed manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6), Combined 42.8 (6.6). CO2 Emissions 154g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.



# ALL THE NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG



## School eisteddfod

AN extremely successful school eisteddfod was held last month in the Memorial Hall, Barry.

The competition was good-natured but fierce! Pupils competed in a variety of competitions, ranging from the whistling choir, sketches depicting adverts, disco dancing to folk dancing.

The highlight of the day was the chairing ceremony. Year-9 pupil Hana Evans won the chair and high praise from the adjudicators for a poem on the theme of 'rays'. Warmest congratulations to Hana and a great thank you to Mr Gareth Wilkins for creating the chair once again this year.

Despite the cheering and excellent competition between the three houses, there was no clear winner at the end of the day as it was a draw between Mihangel and Illtud for first place and Cadog were second.

The choir competition was won by Mihangel – for the first time in years! We are very grateful to our adjudicators for the day – Carys Jones, a former pupil who now presents 'Y Lle' on S4C and Claire Hingott, a familiar face on Sky in 'Stella'. We were very pleased to welcome another former pupil, and by now Welsh rugby international, Cory Allen, who visited in the afternoon.

It was a delight to see the leadership skills demonstrated by year-12 and to see so many pupils appearing on stage at the Memorial Hall, many of them for the first time.

## Representing Wales

IN March, Huw Jones (7B) took part in the Disneyland Paris Welsh Festival.

He was one of five winners from the Pembrokeshire Urdd National Eisteddfod, who were invited to perform at the festival and to take part in the parade in front of 20,000 people along with Mickey and Minnie in their Welsh costumes! Huw also discussed his experience on the Tag programme on S4C.

## University

CONGRATULATIONS to Phoebe Lloyd-Hunter, who has been awarded a scholarship to Bangor University and a financial reward of £2,000.

## Paris visit

YEAR-12 and 13 pupils studying A Level French travelled to Paris during February half term.

It was not only an excellent opportunity to see the sights in the beautiful city, but also to practise their oral French.

## Sporting success

ON April 4, the year-7 and 8 netball and hockey teams took part in the 'Deheubarth' competition at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

The 7A netball team reached the semi-final; winning four games, drawing one and losing one along the way. The 7B team were not so lucky, only winning one game but they all played very well.

The year-8 hockey team reached the final but unfortunately could only make second place. Well done to all the girls who took part.

## Guest speakers

IN April, Miss Rhian Griffiths and Miss Claire Rowlands, together with three able and talented pupils, were invited to participate as guest speakers at the Nace national conference in Cardiff to outline the school's provision for able and talented pupils.

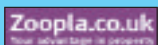
Such recognition was indeed an honour for the individuals concerned, as well as the school. As one of the pupils stated when addressing the congregation: "I have been challenged – continually. I have been motivated and because of it, I believe that I am achieving my potential."





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**NEW**

**SWN-Y-NANT, ST ATHAN**  
 Architecturally designed, two years ago constructed by owner, vaulted roof & gallery landing, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, swimming pool, granny annexe.  
**£495,000**

**NEW**

**CHURCHFIELDS, BARRY**  
 Split level detached versatile, ground floor, 2 double bedrooms, lower ground floor, living, dining & kitchen/breakfast. 1st floor: master bedroom, ensuite, further 2 bedrooms, driveway, garage.  
**£234,950**

**NEW**

**COOK ROAD, BARRY**  
 Ideally positioned amongst 3 other dwellings, detached, 2 reception rooms, integral garage, longer than average driveway, cul de sac, no chain. EPC-D.  
**£169,950**

**NEW**

**BRAMBLE AVENUE, BARRY**  
 3 bedroom detached, garage, en suite to master, family bathroom, cloakroom, kitchen/dining room, double glazed, gas central heating. EPC-D.  
**£179,950**

**NEW**

**GLEN MAVIS WAY, BARRY**  
 3 bedroom detached dwelling, constructed in the 1960's, living room leading to dining room, sitting room & conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. EPC-D.  
**£194,950**

**NEW**

**ANEURIN ROAD, BARRY**  
 3 bedrooms, semi detached, living room, spacious kitchen/diner, ground floor: modern shower room, 1st floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, no chain. EPC-E.  
**£124,950**

**NEW**

**RUTLAND CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Detached 3 bedrooms, porch, entrance hallway, living room, dining room, wc, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, to first floor: 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, gch, upvc dg throughout, driveway, garden.  
**£194,950**

**NEW**

**GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY**  
 Stunning presentation, mid terraced traditional, walled forecourted area, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, luxury bathroom, garage - lane access, refurbished. EPC-D.  
**£121,950**

**NEW**

**PARK COURT, BARRY**  
 Ground floor apartment, no chain, communal entrance hallway, security entrance system, living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, shower room, communal gardens, driveway.  
**£92,950**

**NEW**

**WHITTON CLOSE, RHOOSE**  
 Semi detached bungalow, well presented, corner positioned, 2 reception rooms, 2 conservatories, garage/parking, no chain.  
**£179,950**

**NEW**

**TY CAPSTAN, BARRY**  
 Modern apartment, Redrow constructed, 2nd floor: 2 bedrooms, master ensuite, balcony overlooking front, designated parking, no chain. EPC-B.  
**£99,950**

**NEW**

**SOMERSET ROAD, BARRY**  
 Spacious dwelling, original features throughout, 2 reception rooms, utility, wc, cloakroom, 20ft kitchen/diner, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom with roll top bath, replaced roof & heating system. EPC-D.  
**£229,950**

**NEW**

**COLCOT ROAD, BARRY**  
 Extended dwelling, living room, dining room opening to sitting area, fitted kitchen/breakfast, wc, cloakroom, 4 bedrooms & dressing/study, family bathroom, garden, garage. EPC-C.  
**£289,950**

**NEW**

**CORNWALL RISE, BARRY**  
 Elevated bungalow, 3 bedrooms, replacement modern kitchen and bathroom, L shaped living, longer than average driveway, garage. EPC-E.  
**£204,950**

**NEW**

**MENDIP VIEW, BARRY**  
 Refurbished throughout, living/dining room, new double glazing, 2008 combi boiler, new carpets & flooring, enclosed rear garden/garage, sea views from rear bedroom, no chain.  
**£124,000**

**NEW**

**COLLARD CRESCENT, BARRY**  
 3 bedroom traditional, semi detached, no chain, porch, entrance hallway, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, shower room, wc, cloakroom, patio garden, upvc dg and gch.  
**£119,950**

**NEW**

**ARTHUR STREET, BARRY**  
 2 bedrooms, coach house, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, family bathroom, allocated parking, enclosed garden, no chain. EPC-C.  
**£109,950**

**NEW**

**REDBRINK CRESCENT, BARRY**  
 Bay fronted, in need of modernisation, mid terraced traditional, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, wc, cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, informal hobby/attic - 2nd floor, far reaching sea views.  
**£159,950**

**NEW PRICE**

**HEOL GWERTHYD, BARRY**  
 Modern detached, spacious living, split level over three floors, ground floor: lounge, wc study, stairs rising to attic room, open plan kitchen/diner, utility room, further rec. room. EPC-C.  
**£234,000**

**NEW PRICE**

**WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY**  
 Bay fronted traditional, 2 reception rooms, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, town centre location, permit street parking, enclosed rear garden, lane access. EPC-E.  
**£129,950**

**NEW**

**ROMILLY ROAD, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, living/dining, kitchen-utility area, sitting room, stairs to attic/hobby area, Velux window, to the rear: outbuilding, 4 bedrooms, no chain. EPC-E.  
**£200,000**

**NEW**

**ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY**  
 End of link bungalow, 2 bedrooms, far reaching sea views & Romilly Park, covered balcony, garden to side, designated parking. EPC-D.  
**£148,500**

**NEW**

**SEAPPOINT, BARRY**  
 2nd floor, 1 bedroom, views over the old harbour and the Knap, kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, upvc dg, security door entry system. EPC-D.  
**£107,000**

**NEW**

**PALMER STREET, BARRY**  
 Extended mid terrace, through living room, sitting room, extended fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, wc, cloakroom, family bathroom, gch via combi, upvc dg. EPC-D.  
**£108,950**

**NEW**

**VALE STREET, BARRY**  
 Corner positioned, mid terraced traditional, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, well presented. EPC-E.  
**£114,950**

**NEW**

**WINDSOR ROAD, BARRY**  
 5 bedrooms, living room, dining room, original features throughout, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, wc, cloakroom, West End location. ER-E.  
**£199,950**

**NEW**

**OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY**  
 3 bedrooms, elevated semi detached, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, minutes walk to train station, upvc dg-gch via combi. EPC-D.  
**£134,950**

**NEW**

**WELFORD STREET, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced, bay fronted, 3 bedrooms, original features, stripped parquet flooring, 2 reception rooms, sitting area opening to modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances. EPC-D.  
**£154,950**

**NEW**

**CLAUDE ROAD WEST, BARRY**  
 Bay fronted traditional, well presented, 3 bedrooms, original features, stripped parquet flooring, 2 reception rooms, sitting area opening to modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances. EPC-D.  
**£209,950**

**NEW**

**CWM BARRY WAY, BARRY**  
 Semi detached - bay fronted, through living room, wc, cloakroom, modern fitted kitchen, replacement combi boiler, larger than average garden backing onto Porthkerry Park. ER-D.  
**£204,950**

**NEW**

**WELL WALK, BARRY**  
 Semi detached, in need of modernisation, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, wc, cloakroom, spacious plot ideal for extending, double gates off road parking. ER-D.  
**£259,950**

**NEW**

**MARINE DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Three storey town house, sea views across Bristol Channel, ground floor: sitting room, wc, shower room, 1st floor: living room, fitted kitchen. 2nd floor: 3 bedrooms, family bathroom.  
**£224,950**

**NEW**

**HAWTHORN ROAD, BARRY**  
 A spacious detached, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen & utility room, enclosed rear garden, garage/driveway, no chain. EPC-C.  
**£214,950**

**NEW**

**ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY**  
 Edwardian semi detached, 4 reception rooms, 3 storey, 5 bedrooms, far reaching sea views, utility/pantry/cloakroom to ground floor, family bathroom, double garage. EPC-E.  
**£359,950**

**NEW**

**BURNS CRESCENT, BARRY**  
 3 bedrooms, semi detached, kitchen/diner, living room, bathroom to ground floor, separate wc to 1st floor, enclosed rear garden. EPC-D.  
**£94,950**

**NEW**

**ST BRIDES WAY, BARRY**  
 2 bedrooms, modern semi detached, living room, conservatory, level laid to lawn garden, longer than average driveway providing parking, side access. EPC-D.  
**£99,950**

**PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS**

**HEOL ERYR MOR, BARRY ISLAND**  
 4 bedroomed townhouse, views over Bristol Channel, conservatory, expanded kitchen, private parking/garage. EPC-C.  
**£239,950**

**GARAGE**

**MURLANDE WAY, RHOOSE**  
 Semi detached, corner positioned, kitchen overlooking front, living room with spiral stairs, 2 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, garage/driveway, no chain. EPC-E.  
**£119,950**

**NEW**

**BLACKBERRY DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Modern detached, 4 bedroom, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast, 3 bedrooms, driveway/parking, integral garage, larger than average patio, enclosed garden. EPC-D.  
**£206,950**

**NEW**

**CORNWALL ROAD, BARRY**  
 3 bedrooms, semi detached, living room, dining room, sun lounge, fitted kitchen, utility area, situated off Barry Road, low maintenance rear garden. EPC-D.  
**£129,950**

**NEW**

**GEORGES ROW, DINAS POWYS**  
 End of terraced traditional, living room, ground floor bathroom, 15ft kitchen/breakfast, 3 bedrooms, approx 150ft rear garden, no chain. EPC-D.  
**£145,000**

**SPACIOUS PLOT**

**LON CEFN MABLY, RHOOSE**  
 Spacious semi detached bungalow, entrance hallway, living room, fitted kitchen/dining area, 2 double bedrooms, modern wet room, gch, dg, lawn garden, driveway, garage.  
**£189,950**



# Lollipop lady Karin's praise passed on to hospital staff

**THE 'lollipop lady' at the centre of a Rhoose school accident drama, has issued a heartfelt "thank you" to the hospital staff who treated her injuries.**

Karin Williams was treated in A3 Link at University Hospital of Wales following a crash outside Rhoose Primary last June. She was injured while she was protecting the young children outside the school where she was on duty as a patrol officer.

Karin wrote a letter of praise to her local Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, about the treatment she received on the ward, prompting the AM and the Minister for Health and Social Services to meet staff there.

Jane Hutt explained: "Karin wrote to me to praise the staff for the treatment and care she received in the trauma ward A3 Link

at UHW for nine weeks following the crash. She sustained horrific injuries as the School Patrol Officer while she was protecting the children who were crossing the road.

"As a result, she has very limited mobility and is unable to return to the post she held for 11 years at Rhoose."

Karin Williams has received a number of bravery awards for the action she took in putting her life at risk to protect children.

Ward manager, Robert Haulton, said: "Karin was an inspiration to us, even after the injuries she sustained, Karin remained positive and quickly became the life and soul of the ward while she was in our care.

"We wish her all the best wishes for the future and hopes she comes back to visit soon!"

## The news – according to St Richard Gwyn!

**VALE MP Alun Cairns was put to the test by pupils from St Richard Gwyn RC School in the Sky Newsroom, as part of their day at the Sky Skills Studio.**

The Barry school pupils learned how to research, film, edit, present and broadcast a news item at the Sky Studios in west London.

As part of their reporting exercise on the risks of bullying and cyber bullying, they interviewed the Vale MP for his views.

The scheme is aimed at school pupils, which allows students to work with technology, including broadcast



quality cameras, green screens and touch screen edit tables.

Mr Cairns reported: "The pupils were so impressive. They had obviously researched the subject and put me to the test on what changes

need to take place.

"It was a marvellous opportunity for pupils to not only learn about broadcasting technology, but to use their skills from the classroom in a real life working environment."

## PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS NEWS

# Two picturesque springtime walks

**THIRTEEN Penarth and District Ramblers joined Joy at Portobello car park beside the tidal River Ogmore, at the start of a 13.5-mile walk taking in ruins, sand dunes, beach and moorland on a beautiful sunny spring day.**

Narrow paths led to the Pelican in her Piety pub, where an inn has stood since before 1741, followed by the stepping stones which led them across the Ewenny River on their journey to the picturesque Merthyr Mawr village.

Tramping past the dunes of Merthyr Mawr Warren onto the open Traeth yr Afon beach, a fierce cool breeze confronted them on their journey to Newton village, where a quick visit was made to St John's Church.

Sheltered sandy paths through the dunes led them into woodland, followed by lunch in warm sunshine and tramping open fields and, re-crossing the Ewenny River, a climb uphill led onto Ogmore Down.

Striding down the lush green pretty cwm of Pant Mari Flanders, they made their way through Norton, drinking in the fantastic views across Porthcawl, Trecco Bay and Merthyr Mawr, before descending to follow the River Ogmore from its estuary back to their start.

### Eagle's Nest

**WILLIAM'S mid-week ramble saw the group travelling to the picturesque town of Chepstow with its magnificent castle overlooking the River Wye before it reaches the Severn Estuary.**

Following part of the long distance Wye Valley Walk, they joined the Piercefield Walks, which pass through delightful woodland carpeted with brightly coloured spring flowers that were also enjoyed by writers, poets, painters and the public back in the 18th century – and climbing the 365-steps to the aptly named Eagle's Nest, the views made it worthwhile.

Descending to Tintern to reach the majestic ruined abbey, and crossing to the east bank of the Wye, another climb through woods led on to their lunch stop on a grassy hillside above Brockweir.

Offa's Dyke Path through peaceful woodland took them to the Devil's Pulpit, a stony outcrop of rock with stunning views over the abbey and eventually, leaving the woods to cross fields overlooking the Severn Estuary, a short break at Wintour's Leap high above the meandering River Wye, while observing rock climbers ascending the steep cliffs below them.

Passing through the village of Woodcroft, the path descended through fields and, tramping down Donkey Lane towards Tutshill, a final push over the river bridge led them back into Wales after a truly inspiring 15-mile hike.

On April 26, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk to Pontneddfechan, taking in the beautiful waterfalls and the gunpowder works; contact Clive/Rachel on 029 2065 4156/01446 410545.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

*Joy Strangward*

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D62



**Murlande Way, Rhoose**  
End Link Extended 1 Bed House, Lounge,  
Kitchen, Extension Sitting Room/Bedroom,  
Private Garden, Allocated Parking

**£95,000**

D61



**Heol Y Dryw, Rhoose Point**  
Townhouse with views!!  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms  
Garage

**£205,000**

tbc



**Chris Davies**



**Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry**  
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1 Parking Spaces, No Onward Chain

**£108,500**

C77



**Tydfil Street, Barry**  
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2 Reception & Enclosed Garden

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D66



**Whitmore Park Drive, Barry**  
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D63



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E47



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Enclosed Family Rear Garden

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D60



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D82



**Gladstone Road, Barry**  
4/5 Bedrooms  
3 Reception & Large Kitchen/Diner  
En-Suite & Bathroom, Double Garage

**£214,950**

E53



**Teifi Drive, Barry**  
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Appliances

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C69



**Romilly Road, Rhoose**  
2 Bedrooms - Central Rhoose  
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Very Well Presented

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D65



**Murlande Way, Rhoose**  
2 Bedrooms  
No Onward Chain  
Adjacent Parking

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E51



**Showle Acre, Rhoose**  
3 Bedrooms  
Cul-De-Sac  
No Onward Chain

**£137,500**

C73



**Norseman Close, Rhoose**  
Semi Detached House  
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Garage and Large Garden

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D66

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C71



**Mayflower Way, Rhoose**  
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D63



**Heol Pilipala, Rhoose Point**  
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C73



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D62

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**Sarah Smith**  
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## Family Notices

### WILD Janet

The service at All Saints Church, Barry on Monday, 28th April 2014 has been changed to Wednesday, 30th April 2014 at 11.15am with cremation at Barry Crematorium at 12.45pm. Any enquiries please ring A.G. Adams & Son on 01446 735400.

### FITCHETT Rosie

The family of Rosie Fitchett would like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy and cards and to all who attended her funeral.

To Drs Jennett and partners and the District Nurses without whose help, care and support we would not have been able to keep mum at home. To Arthur and his team at WA Brown and Son Funeral Directors, whose thoughtfulness and attention to detail helped us through this difficult time. Lastly, Daphne - a very special lady. Thank you all.

### JONES Katherine Ruby (KIT)

After a sudden and unexpected illness, Mum (Kit) passed away on April 14th, beloved wife of the late Ted, much loved Mum of Lynne, Suzette, Mark, Tim and their families. Cherished Nanny Kit to all her grandchildren & Great grandchildren. Kit will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Resting in the Private Chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cadoxton Methodist Church, Barry on Monday, 28th April at 11.00am followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations may be made at the service to Cancer Research Wales in memory of Kit.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

### WILLIAMS Jane Louise

Peacefully at home on 17th April 2014 aged 46. Adored wife and best friend of husband Chris and devoted mother of loving sons James and Sam. Much loved daughter of Ray and Alison and daughter-in-law of Paul and Marie. Jane will be deeply missed by all of her family and friends.

Jane's Funeral Service will be held at 11.45am on Friday April 25th at Our Lady & St Illtyd Church, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major, followed by a service of committal at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm.

Jane requested flowers only from her immediate family. Any donations in lieu of flowers may be made to her Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund appeal via www.justgiving.com/janewilliams9. Jane also requested that her service is to be a celebration of her life and she specifically asked that everyone attending is to wear something purple, such as a tie, scarf or flower.

All enquiries to Pontyclun Funeral Services, Clun Avenue, Pontyclun, CF72 9AG. Tel (01443) 224358.

### BAKER Roy Leonard

Passed away suddenly in hospital on 20th April. Loving and kind husband of Gwen and dear father of Paul, Lynda, Helen and Peter, son-in-laws Gordon and Phil and daughter-in-laws Annette and Julie. Much loved by all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends but never forgotten.

Funeral Service on Friday, 2nd May at 3pm at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only by request, donations in lieu for Leukaemia Research or Alzheimer's research can be made at the service or sent to: Park Funeral Directors, 7 Ty Newydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB. Telephone: 01446 421212.

### ASTON Patrick George

Suddenly at his home in Llantwit Major on April 19 after a short illness bravely borne, Patrick, beloved husband of Sally, much loved brother of Ralph, Jimmy, Patricia and Geraldine.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday May 2, service and cremation 1.30pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund and/or Dogs Trust, Bridgend, both c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosue, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

A special thanks to Dr Foreman.

### Thank You

#### THANK YOU

Bert Thomas would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way towards his birthday celebrations, including all parties arranged, cards, phone calls, gifts and well wishes in marking his 90th birthday on April 20.

"He hopes you all enjoyed it as much as he did!"

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## Birthdays

### LOOK WHO'S 40!

Happy Birthday RACHEL SWEENEY (Daw) on 28 April 2104 Lots of Love, Mum, Dad and all the family xxx



### JAMES THOMPSON Happy 18th Birthday

We are so proud of you! Lots of love Mum, Dad & Liddy xxx

### Gemma Duncan

Happy 30th Birthday on 29th April



Have a great day Lots of love Mum, Dad, Becca, Simon, Charlie, Lily & Finley xxxxx

### John Whatling

Happy 60th Birthday (30th April 2014)



With love from, Lynne, George, Jonathan & Sarah, Gemma & Nick xxx

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www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/rhosue-north

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## Dutch rugby team highlights Armed Forces Day in June



**THE visiting Dutch side from s-Hertogenbosch proved emphatic winners over Army Reserve (Wales) in what could become an annual rugby event.**

The Dutch side was handicapped by losing no less than 10 players called up for duty with their national side. Even so, they managed an 18-11 victory over the fledgling Army Reserve side.

The game, billed as the opener to the run-up to Armed Forces Day Wales on June 28 was played at Cowbridge between two teams mindful of the significant historic implications of the meeting.

"It is important that we keep the remembrance," said Dutch team organiser Maikel Weyes, who is also a committee member of the Society of October 1944, responsible for the city's commemorations.

"This game was suggested by the Armed Forces Day organisers and of course we had to accept. Hopefully next year, a team will come out to us from Wales and we will keep the connection going."

In 1944, 70 years ago, the largely Territorial 53rd Welsh Division liberated s-Hertogenbosch with a loss of over 146 lives.

The Dutch city has never forgotten, and each year celebrates

its liberation. But 70 years on, the number of veterans still alive has dwindled and reluctantly the city has decided that this year will be the last big commemoration.

In June, the mayor of s-Hertogenbosch will lead a contingent of an 80 strong band and a 100 strong choir as well as a group of some 22 cyclists. They will cycle from s-Hertogenbosch to Wales to take part in Armed Forces day in Cardiff.

They will carry a Davy lamp that will have been lit from the eternal flame at the local British War Cemetery where those killed during the liberation of the city are buried.

**Doug McArthur**

## Vale Karate success at huge WKL season opening event

**THE Welsh Karate League stepped up to another level on Sunday, April 13 at the opening tournament of the new season at which 37 clubs sent more than 450 entries to the WKA International Open.**

A small squad from Portugal attended, and all four of the major organisations that form the English Karate Council; Karate England, KarateSport England, FEKO and the AMA had participants involved, as well as a big group from Ireland also present, with the IKAW sending squads from five clubs: Carlow, Ballon, Bigstone, Ballinabranagh and Askea.

The home of Sport Wales, the Welsh Institute of Sport, was the venue – a brilliant stage for the biggest and highest quality WKL event yet, and probably the biggest and certainly highest quality Karate tournament in Wales in years!

There is now a very definite buzz around the league and Karate Wales. Wales' most successful clubs over the past decade or so are now vying for honours with strong squads. This will drive standards up. Vale Karate, Ken Bu Kan and The Bushi-Kai will be hard to oust in the league pecking order, but there is a plethora of talent emerging from many other clubs in the league! Cardiff Shotokan, Cogan, Talbot, Kansei, Pencoed, Wattstown... the list goes on of Karate Wales clubs who have huge potential in their ranks!

Vale Karate had a huge squad with 81 category entries in Cardiff. A couple of new categories boosted their attendance. Vale entered four junior teams and no fewer than six parent and child Kata pairings.

Vale Karate earned 172 points, more than at any event last season, and nine gold, seven silver and 18 bronze medals.

Included in that medal haul were two gold medals for Josh Dwyer who took top honours in both under-14 Advanced Kata and Kumite.

A spectacular day was brought to a conclusion with the special adult team events, and a great performance by the Karate Wales

men's team who won the event beating the quality KarateSport England team in the process.

The second event is fast approaching on May 11 in Bridgend.

### Vale Karate medallists

**GOLD:** Jared Butcher under-14 Special Needs Kata; Asa Madsen 14 plus Special Needs Kata; Heidi and Kloe Parent and Child Kata; Emma and Alex (Panthers) Junior Pairs Kata; Emma Squire, under 16 Advanced kata; Vale Samurai under-12 Team Kumite; Josh Dwyer, under-14 Advanced Kata; Josh Dwyer, under-14 Advanced Boys Kumite; Leah Copeland, Ladies Kata.

**SILVER:** Bradley James, under-14 Special Needs Kata; Daniel Richards, 14 plus Special Needs Kata; Giulia and Chiara Parent and Child Kata; Josh and Harrison (Vipers) Junior Pairs Kata; Chiara Baker, Junior Shotokan Kata; Finnian O'Donovan, under-10 Advanced Boys kumite; Danica Apologista, under-12 Advanced Kata.

**BRONZE:** Lucas Widdrington, under-14 Special Needs Kata; Connor Shill, under-14 Special Needs Kata; Pippa and Chris Parent and Child Kata; Jon and Alex Parent and Child Kata; Danica and Chiara (Dragons) Junior Pairs Kata; Kloe Christoforato, Junior Shotokan Kata; Danica Apologista, Junior Shotokan Kata; Kian George, under-8 Boys kumite; Jay Forsyth, under-8 Boys Kumite; Alexandra Slack, under-16 Advanced Kata; Vale Karate under-10 Team Kumite; Vale Karate under-14 Team Kumite; Ella Lyons, under-10 Advanced Kata; Ella Forsyth, under-12 Girls Kumite; Chiara Baker, under-12 Advanced Kata; Matthew Hill, Mens Kata; Amy Davis, Ladies Kumite; Rory O'Donovan, Mens Veteran Kumite.

## Generous Barry Vets declare 'a draw' in clash at Rhoose bowls

**On Thursday April 17, Rhoose Bowling Club played its first match of the season.**

A mixed team from Rhoose entertained a Barry Veterans side.

Although it took the Vets' team a few ends to master the all weather surface they were soon ahead on several rinks.

Rhoose fought back but by the final ends the Vets were clearly ahead on three rinks. However in a very gentlemanly manner the Vets declared the match a

draw. Except for the cold temperature all enjoyed their afternoon of bowling.

The club's 'Open Day' on Saturday, April 5, was successful and resulted in the club recruiting five new members. The ladies' section is still looking for extra members.

Anyone who is interested in learning to play bowls can still come to the club in Celtic Way. Free coaching is available on Monday Evenings at 5.30pm. All you need is a flat pair of shoes. For information, please email: jhop106639@aol.com

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## Bosuns suffer a narrow defeat

### BARRY CHESS CLUB REPORT

LAST week we reported that the Vale team lost heavily to Cardiff and now stand in third place in the Premier League. This week the same group of players from Barry represented the Bosons' team in the East Glamorgan League and in the Welsh Knock Out Cup.

In chronological order the knock out Cup game was played first.

This was against possibly the strongest rated team in the competition so we knew we had a tough match.

They outrated us on all four boards. On the top board an in-form Lee Davis earned a draw against Alan Young, while on the bottom board Rhys Steele took the whole point against David Guy.

Unfortunately on the middle boards we could not replicate these results and lost a close match by 2.5 - 1.5.

We now have the chance to redeem ourselves as we drop into the Plate competition where we have been drawn at home to Bridgend Central.

In the league we had destiny in our own hands. Going into the final round of games we held a 2 point advantage over the Castles.

The Bosons had to play the Cardiff Monarchs. Father and son Lee and Ashley Davis earned draws.

However the middle order huffed and puffed but they blew us away to beat us by 4-1.

Of note was the defeat of Rhys by Bill Hunt. This was Rhys's first defeat since he lost to Craig Woolcock back in February.

Before this match he was unbeaten in 10 games, winning 9 and drawing only 1.

The Bosons have a lead of 3 points. The final game for the Castles is against the Caerphilly Kings. A victory for the Castles by any margin will take the title. Come on you Kings!

The Camelots finished their season with a 3-2 victory over the already relegated St Johns' College.

At long last Lee managed to defeat his nemesis Robert Taylor with John Stephenson and Peter Watkins earning our other points. The camelots are now definitely safe from relegation and sit in 6th place but the Kings will probably move above us as they have 2 games to play.

In division 4 the Gambits finished their season with a third play off win. They defeated the Penarth Barons 3-2 but on paper we would have expected to lose this game as the Barons were the higher rated team. The improving Jason grice took another victory whilst Windsor Lewis and Martin Ricketts did well to earn draws. The Gambits finished 5th but we already knew that.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games. **PJ**

### Bridgend bridge latest results THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for a recent event are for Wednesday, April 16.

First, Dave Barwood and Jane Brook; second, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler; third, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start play at that time so it helps if people arrive 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for April 17 were Linda Jenkins Dilys Bowser V Irene Thomas Susan Hunt and Christine Davies

The cheese and wine evening in aid of Bridgend Samaritans has been moved to May 9 to which all are most welcome. **DN**

### Recent results from Porthcawl Bridge Club RESULTS from Porthcawl Bridge Club are:

Saturday, April 5: First, Liam Sheridan and Tony Haworth; second, Terry Dolan and Kate Craven.

Monday, April 7: First, Peter Jenkins and William Bell; second, Marian Evans and Trish Saunders.

Thursday, April 10: First, Terry Dolan and Janet Richards; second, Connie Dick and Roger Draper.

Saturday, April 12: First, Connie Dick and Roger Draper; second, Dil and Marian Evans.

Monday, April 14th: First, Roger Plant and Terry Dolan; second, Trish Saunders and Janet Richards.

Thursday, April 17: First, Janet Richards and Roger Draper; second, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison.

The club meets three times a week on Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel at 7pm-10.15pm. Visitors welcome. To contact the club, call secretary Trish (01656 785794). **TH**

## Evergreen Master golfers on way to Porthcawl

WELSH golf fans are being reminded that two golfers who took part in the US Masters will be playing in this year's Senior Open Championship at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, July 24 - 27.

Miguel Angel Jimenez and Bernhard Langer secured impressive top 10 finishes at Augusta, and the pair will be joined by stars such as Fred Couples, Colin Montgomerie, Ian Woosnam, and Gordon Brand Jr when they play south Wales' premier links course.

The Welsh Government has reached a £5m agreement for three Senior Open Championships to be played in Wales between 2014 and 2024, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is contributing £50,000 towards the hosting of the first event in Porthcawl, which is predicted to attract 34,000 spectators.

Coun David Sage, BCBC cabinet member for tourism said: "Now that they are in their 50s, both Bernhard Langer and Miguel Angel Jimenez are

eligible for the seniors tour, and will be playing at Royal Porthcawl this summer. By doing so well in the Masters, they have shown that class is permanent and that they have lost none of the qualities that took them to the very pinnacle of the sport over so many years."

He added: "It will be a pleasure to see them play at the Senior Open Championship. Hosting this prestigious event will help to put Bridgend county borough on the map, and bring benefits to the local economy."

The 'Senior Open Championship presented by

Rolux' takes place at Royal Porthcawl and tickets can be bought by calling the hotline on 0800 023 2557 or via www.senioropengolf.com. Please note that children aged under 16 go free.

Volunteers are also required for the Senior Open Championship. Roles include being a marshal, scorer or courtesy car driver, and all volunteers need to be aged over 18. For further details, email

golfmarshaltso@outlook.com

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## Barry Darts League report

**THE League Doubles were played on Friday, April 18 at the Cadoxton Cons.**

The winners, Chris Lawday and Matt Jackson of the 'Throws of Despair', came through a strong field to win the event.

The semi finals saw last year's winners, Craig Harris and Matt Stanger, playing against Jon Hum and Ray Way of the Poachers. The Poachers pair went through to the final with a 3-1 win.

The other semi final also saw Chris and Matt win 3-1 against Dave Davies and Colin Berryman of the Mariners.

The final was unexpectedly one-sided with Chris and Matt winning 4-0.

On the previous Friday, the BFC Allsorts won the three-a-side competition, also played at the Cadoxton Cons. Peter de Souza, John Morgan and Nick Price won the deciding trebles leg in the final, to win 3-2 against the Poachers.

The runners up were Ray Way, Terry Overton and Charlie James from the Poachers.



*The league doubles winners.*

Congratulations to the winners and runners up of both competitions and thanks to all the players who took part.

## Dinas dominate, but end up frustrated

by Peter King,  
Dinas Powys FC

**FOLLOWING ON from the previous Wednesday's game away to Chepstow, where Dinas came away with nothing after totally dominating long spells of the game, particularly in the second half, Dinas were determined to get something from this game.**

In windy conditions, Caldicot forced an early corner, which was unproductive but Mitchell Slape then drove through the middle to beat Dinas' keeper Steve Johnson, only to be judged offside.

Dinas began to get their passing game going with Zac Cleary and Ryan Garland linking up well before Garland was tackled. It was Cleary again who put Luke Swaffield in but his left-foot shot was just wide of the post.

Steve Johnson had to tip a deep cross over his cross-bar just under the bar. However, on the 35-

minute mark, the visitors took the lead, when Matt James got his head to a cross to flick it past Johnson for the opener.

Dinas had a good chance to get on terms when Carlos Indjai was put through one on one with Caldicot keeper Matt Sandiford but his effort was high and wide.

A determined run and cross from Swaffield reached Indjai, but again he scuffed his shot and Sandiford gathered and the visitors held their lead as the half-time whistle went.

Dinas came out in determined mood playing some fine football to feet but the management team of Keith Williams and Lee Saunders decided to make a couple of early substitutions, Garland and Indjai being replaced by Connor Parsons and Daniel Gwyn Hughes. Within a few minutes Dinas were level.

A cross from Swaffield wide on the left reached Cleary at the far post and he blasted the ball high into the net for the equaliser.

Dinas were well on top at this stage, forcing a number of corners and they continued to press for the winner, Cleary almost getting his second but Sandiford made a fine

save.

With 20 minutes remaining, the home side made their final substitution, Steve Provis replacing Victor Arnau, with Provis slotting in at right back and Nicky Bruce moving to left back.

The visitors were having trouble getting any possession as Dinas kept up the excellent work rate and any efforts they did have were long-range shots which the Dinas central defenders James Marr and James Bloxham dealt with comfortably to set up wave after wave of attacks. The second goal wouldn't come and Dinas had to be content with a point.

On April 26, league leaders Garden Village visit the Murch, no doubt looking for revenge after Dinas were the first team to take three points off them this season, kick off is at 2.30pm.

*Dinas squad: 1 Steve Johnson, 2 Nicky Bruce, 3 Victor Arnau, 4 James Marr, 5 James Bloxham, 6 Marc Bonet, 7 Ryan Garland, 8 Luke Swaffield, 9 Ben Ahmud, 10 Zac Cleary, 11 Carlos Indjai, 12 Steve Provis, 14 Ronan Scott, 15 Connor Parsons, 16 Daniel Gwyn Hughes.*

## MORE SPORT ON PAGES 36 & 37

## VIs' setback at hands of Albion

**BARRY Albion edged out VIFC with a 1-0 win to put the contenders four points adrift of top spot.**

Albion dealt with the windy conditions better, played to their strengths and took their chance when it came.

Barry's Alessandro netted the winner in a game where chances were few and far between.

VIFC, still reeling from last weekend's Cup final defeat, can count themselves lucky that they are only four points behind Rhosau after Rovers only managed a 1-1 draw at Barry Rovers.

The away side can have no complaints after a performance lacking urgency and clear chances showed the team must adapt when facing closer matched opposition.

The only consolation that the title contenders can take is they were missing several key members of the squad.

Aaron Rogers did have a couple of early efforts to worry Albion's 'keeper and looked to create chances for Phil Morgan and Nathan Self in front of him.

The VIs almost took the lead as well, starting with goalkeeper Mike King's long ball down the centre. Rogers managed to collect and deliver to Morgan just yards from the goal line, the striker failing to get his close range effort past the defender and 'keeper.

Albion defended well and denied the visitors the spaces that they were so used to exploiting against the likes of Penarth and Cadoxton sides.

After a relatively quiet first half, Nathan Self saw his volley well struck, but sail wide. However, it was

the resulting goal kick that proved the source of the game-winning moment. The set piece was sent long and headed onwards to Alessandro, who poked the bouncing ball past the onrushing King.

The VIs struggled to create clear chances after going a goal behind, with headed efforts from Dean Cleave and Nicky Cox coming closest but still failing to test Albion's 'keeper.

After the final whistle blew, the still title contenders can be thankful that stand-in 'keeper Mike King looked strong between the posts and kept Albion from increasing their lead with some fine saves.

*Team line-up: M King, J Robinson, T Charles, N Cox, C Goodwin, J Laing, C Lawrence, A Rogers, D Cleave, N Self, P Morgan. Subs: C Joughin, S Lucas.*

Another defeat and another game where the VIs must take positives in a league where they are used to winning matches with ease. They must be thankful that Rhosau failed to fully capitalise on this slip-up and ready themselves for a comeback next Saturday.

The VIs are at home next weekend to face 10th placed Cardiff Airport.

We'd like to thank the fans who turned up to support us on a windy Saturday afternoon. Also, thank you to the continued support from our sponsors: Owen's Motor Services, Llandow, Three Horseshoes, St Athan, Higgsy Site Services Ltd and Cooleasy.co.uk.

RC

## Resilient Barry outlast high-flying Glyncoch

**BARRY entertained high fliers Glyncoch last Saturday in perfect playing conditions at the Reservoir Field.**

The visitors used the advantage of the slope shrewdly and penned Barry near their own line for most of the first half hour or so. They also used several penalties to force Barry to defend close to their own line.

In recent games this would have sent alarm bells ringing but this time things were different. The home side were able to protect their territory by dominating lineout possession from both their own throw-in and, more importantly, that of the opposition.

The other major factor in this survival phase was the resolute tackling of the Barry eight and inside backs.

Glyncoch, however, gained clear supremacy at the set scrummages. It was from one particularly punishing set piece that the visitors inched ahead with a penalty from close range.

During this opening period, it was apparent that, for a second week, the referee displayed no sympathy with the players but relied on the whistle as a means of control.

With Evans, Hollister and Hadfield prominent, Barry slowly began to lift the siege and earned themselves a penalty, duly converted by E Scott. Given the possession and territory, the half-time tally of three points apiece flattered the home XV.

With the increasingly strong wind at their backs, the visitors used the touchlines effectively. They drove a scrum over from short range and added a

fine conversion from wide out.

This proved a sea change in fortunes. Barry seemed to sense that the visiting forwards were falling off the pace and began to run the ball wide at every opportunity. They were rewarded when an outrageous cutout pass from Hadfield went to hand.

Flying winger Hammonda was alert to the opportunity and skinned his opponent to cross the line wide out. Scott added the extras with a very good conversion from the touchline.

All the Barry forwards seemed transformed by this turn of events and began scattering opponents at ruck and maul. With the Glyncoch forwards visibly wilting, the home backs gave them headaches whenever they had ball in hand.

A well-engineered move put Hammonda free again and he did not disappoint. This time, however, the conversion attempt failed.

A short-lived mini revival by the visitors towards the end was of no avail, Barry running out winners by 15-10.

This was a deserved victory gained through self-belief and hard work, especially given the tough examination they withstood in the first session. The combination of grizzlies and young bucks had carried the day.

*Barry: Ryan (captain), Williams, Provis, T Scott, Hammonda, E Scott, Gallivan, O'Sullivan, Evans, Hollister, Jones, Oaten, Hadfield, Poole, C Scott.*

The next fixture is away to Tonyrefail on Saturday, April 26.

CO

## Barry seconds finish their league campaign with high-scoring win

**BARRY RFC 2nds 69 - 17 St Peters**

**Barry ended their league campaign in the glorious spring sunshine, with St Peters their visitors.**

The first fixture between these sides in December was the turning point for Barry, who recorded their first victory of the campaign in that pulsating game.

This time, coach Rhidian Scott, shorn of the services of numerous regular players due to injury, unavailability, or 1st XV call up, was forced to promote Forrester and Barclay from the 3rd XV.

There were also rare appearances by Dutton and Bounds on the bench, with Rhys Hardy returning at fly-half for the first time in over a year.

Hardy made an instant impact, pulling the strings at stand-off, and his cross-field kick set up Ashley Adams for an early score. From then on, Barry never looked back.

With the backs firing on all cylinders, St Peters had no answer to the home side's fluent attacking style, and tries were being scored from all angles.

Joel Williams bagged a hat-trick, Adams completed a brace and Brad White scored two. Joe McCann and Tony Heard also crossed for the green-and-whites as the bonus point was in the bag well before the interval.

Substitute Luke Bounds scored his obligatory brace to complete the rout. Adam Lee kicked seven out of eleven conversions, but also missed an absolute sitter in front of the posts to round off a handsome 69-17 win for the hosts.

*Team: Lee; Adams, White, McCann, Forrester, Hardy, Williams; Pirso, Vidal, Heard; Elsworth, Barclay; Jones, Hewitson, Rolfe (captain).*

*Replacements: Thomas, Corne, Dutton, Bounds Man-of-the-match: Williams*

Barry 2nd XV will now travel to Pentrych RFC to compete in the East District Cup final against Cardiff Met on Thursday, kick-off 6.30pm. The team and management would appreciate all the support they can get for this match.

**BARRY 3rd XV 12 - 68 Taffs Well 2nd XV**

Barry 3rd XV ended their season with a friendly, welcoming the visit of Taffs Well.

Caretaker manager Ken Chow, again faced with numerous last minute withdrawals and injuries, was forced to shuffle his pack and recalled Tony Jenkins on the wing, Andrew Houldley at hooker, and there were also starts for veterans John Dimond and Jason Evans.

With such disruptions to the pre-match preparations and against a well-drilled second team from Taffs Well, it was no surprise that the away side dominated proceedings right from the start, scoring the first try within the first five minutes.

Barry responded well with some fine forward drives from Liam Ring, Evans and Huw Davies, marshalled by Dimond and Corrigan at half backs, but the lack of cutting edge led to chances being spurned.

Centre Mike Awaient and ultimately captain Lloyd Jones also led the charge, but the home cause was severely hampered by a series of injuries in the first half.

First Dimond was forced off with a calf injury, and Chow replaced him at scrum-half, while Awaient and Corrigan also followed suit soon after.

Against a back line containing three forwards, with Westall and Cleland looking more like a second row rather than a centre partnership, Taffs Well took full advantage and scored more tries before the interval.

Barry, to their credit, never gave up and pushed forward for a score of their own, and were rewarded when a well-worked catch-and-drive from the forwards ended up with Evans grounding in the corner. Chris Bailey failed to add the extras.

Awaient and Corrigan both came back on in the second half, but just as the home side looked to gain some momentum, disaster struck.

First, captain Lloyd Jones was forced off with a groin injury, before Awaient suffered a fractured mandible following a collision in a tackle. We wish all injured players a speedy recovery.

Taffs Well racked up the points as a disorganised Barry found it difficult to contain them, but once again Barry's spirit was rewarded with a score late in the day.

After Corrigan has finally used his forwards instead of kicking aimlessly ahead, he was on hand to benefit as he powered through from close range. Corrigan himself slotted over a difficult conversion to leave him as the top points-scorer for the 3rd XV this season.

Despite the defeat, there were positives to be had, among which the spirit the team shown and also a return from long term, career-threatening injury for James Sullivan. The 3rd XV will hope to regroup and carry on the spirit and attitude towards the next season.

*Team: Bailey; Rees, Awaient, Cleland, Jenkins; Corrigan, Dimond; Compton, Houldley, Ring; Davies, Hall; Fogg, Jones ©, Evans*

*Replacements: Sullivan, Howells-Davies, Thomas, Templeman, Westall, Chow Man-of-the-match: Fogg*

KC